Illustrated Midland News.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. PUBLISHED AT 108, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 17s. 6d. POST FREE.

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lintel, supported by iron columns in the tympanum, above which is provision for a basso-relievo of the Supper at Emmaus—an event only mentioned in the Evangel of St. LUKE. In the south exterior of the claustral arcade surmounted by the tower, is a double doorway, in the traceries of which is provision for an intended stone-carved bas-relief of St. LUKE writing his gospel. Where the porch (which is rendered architecturally less pleasing, perhaps, though certainly more sheltered, by having latterly had its outer arches glazed for purposes of warmth) joins the north angle of the west wall of the nave, it is united to the latter by a flying buttress, capped by a lofty stone pinnacle; the wall itself being pierced by two two-light windows, having traceried heads in stone, and a large six-foil rose window between them. The church, as will be perceived, is unusually extensive; being 132ft. in length by 53ft. in breadth. The height, from the floor of the nave to the ridge of roof, is also 53ft. The nave is 90ft. long by 32ft. wide, and is flanked by north and south aisles of corresponding length, each 14ft. wide. On the east end is an apsidal chancel, 40ft. long, with two side-chapels, each 18ft. long, and of equal width to the aisles, for the accommodation of 200 children. The exterior of the chancel is marked on its two sides by the gables of the side chapels; and each face of its apsidal end has a single lancet window of ornamental brickwork, with stone corbels, and at each angle a massive buttress intended to be capped with a stone-carved angel, holding emblems of the Passion of our Blessed Lord; one of which, a gift by the accomplished architect, is alone sculptured at present. The nave is curiously and very effectively separated from the chancel by three pointed arches of coloured brick—a wide central one and two narrow side ones, supported by coupled columns. The pulpit and reading-desk are severally placed beneath the two narrower arches. The side-chapels are also divided from the chancel and aisles by an arcaded screen of similar character; so that the east end of the chapel can be seen from every part of the church, notwithstanding its great length. The floor of the chancel, which is elevated six steps from the nave, is laid with encaustic tiles, the gift of the late HERBERT MINTON, Esq., their manufacturer. Three memorial windows of richly-stained glass commemorate the late Archdeacon HODSON, at the extremity of the chancel; and beneath them is the beautiful reredos—a truly admirable work of art—the production of WOOD, of Lichfield, who, we believe, practised several years in the famous studio of MONTI, at Milan. The reredos has three compartments. The central compartment has for its subject the LORD'S Supper; the figures of which, seated in a capacious niche, which is coped and surrounded with passion-flower enrichments, are elaborately and beautifully sculptured in white stone, are in very prominent relief. The side pieces, which are executed in a novel kind of inlaid frescoe, respectively represent the dedication of the Temple of SOLOMON and the presentation of the Magi. The peculiarity of these frescoes acquires additional interest from the well-known circumstance of the atmosphere of our climate having hitherto proved fatal to the preservation of other and more especially modern kinds of frescoe, as lamentably instanced in the beautiful perishing frescoes of the Houses of Parliament and the church of All Saints, Margaret-street, London. The cost of this exquisite reredos, about £150, was wholly or chiefly contributed by HENRY WARD, Esq., and Mrs. KENT, his sister. The wrought-iron work decorations of the interior were executed by Mr. BRAWN, of Birmingham, and reflects great credit on his skill in the art of *repoussé* work. The church is lighted by fourteen handsome bronzed and brass gas standards, executed by Messrs. READY and SON, Wolverhampton; twelve are in the nave, and two loftier ones in the chancel. Among numerous special gifts to the edifice is a handsome stone font, presented by the late Mrs. DALTON; the altar-table, chairs, and vestments, presented by the late Mrs. ROGERS; the carving of one bay of the nave, presented by the Rev. W. DALTON; and a similar gift, as well as the carving of the angel already mentioned, by the architect. The number of sittings in the church is 900; of which, by express stipulation of the Incorporated Church-building Society, a specified 609 are free. The vicar's stipend is derived from pew-rents, fees, and an endowment fund, yielding about £60; to which fund the trustees contributed £200 each, and other promoters of the building-fund the remainder. This stipend has been supplemented by a commodious and handsome residence, St. Luke's Vicarage, healthfully situated on Goldthorn Hill, a few hundred yards from the church. The cost of erecting the vicarage, between £1,600 and £1,700, was defrayed by public and private subscription; including £20 each from the trustees, other contributions from the Poor Benefice Fund and Diocesan Society, and the proceeds of a bazaar specially instituted for the purpose; the Earl of DUDLEY having generously given the land. The erection of the Schools, which, as shown in our engraving, are situated on the north side of the church, was commenced almost simultaneously with the church, wherewith they correspond in architecture and material. Of their total cost, about £1,500, exclusive of site, the munificent sum of £520 was contributed by the Rev. W. DALTON, who devoted to this benevolent object the amount of a testimonial presented to him by the parishioners of St. Paul's on his ceasing to be their vicar. Three classes of pupils are separately accommodated in the schools—viz., boy, girl, and infant pupils; of whom, collectively, there are about 600 on the books, with an average attendance of 400. The most imposing view of the schools is on the north-west side, which presents three gables not visible from our artist's point of view. The cost of the entire site of the church and schools was £700; and the joint area is surrounded by a substantial wall, which has its west, east, south, and north faces architecturally embrasured and otherwise ornamented, in coloured brick, to correspond with the building it encloses.

THE TELEGRAPHS OF THE FUTURE.

WHAT are the Telegraphs of the Future to be? We have accomplished the SHAKESPEARIAN feat of throwing a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes. We have brought all the Capitals of Europe within whispering distance, and we turn to our morning paper now to find the latest gossip of the Courts of the Tuileries, of St. Petersburgh, of Cairo and Constantinople, Vienna and Madrid, as instinctively and as thoughtlessly as we used to turn to the quotations of our own markets. Here, too, we have in the terse, matter-of-fact form of our own *Court Circular* and the latest accounts from TATTERSALL'S the price of gold yesterday afternoon at New York, the rates of exchange at Hong Kong and Shanghai a few hours previously, and the price of grey-shirtings, Madollopans and Bannermill twist at Calcutta and Bombay. All these great centres of politics and commerce have been brought into a charmed circle of electric intercommunication. and the stockbrokers, the cornfactors, the merchants of London and of most of our great provincial towns never think of commencing their day's work till they have looked through their morning budget of telegrams from their correspondents at all the main points of political and commercial observation any more than they thought a few years ago of going upon 'Change till the post was in and they had read their letters. When Lord MACAULAY went out to India thirty years ago as Member of the Council he took the works of St. CHRYSOSTOM with him to kill his time on the way. It was then a journey of four or five months, and a merchant thought an answer per return prompt if it reached him within the year. These were the days of old Leisure, of weekly newspapers, of shilling postages, of stage coaches, when Edinburgh and London were for all practical purposes further apart than London and New York are now, and when it took the head of the Government in Downing-street longer to communicate with the Viceroy of Ireland than it now takes the Duke of ARGYLE to send an order to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian army on the slopes of the Himalayas. It is hardly life-time. The recollections of many men who have not yet reached their grand climacteric may compass the period. And yet look at our position to-day! You could hardly find time to get through VICTOR HUGO'S *L'Homme Qui Rit*, or Mr. ANTHONY TROLLOPE'S last novel now in the course of a journey from Marseilles to Calcutta; a rise or fall in the Bank rates of discount alters the quotations of all the markets of the two hemispheres in eight-and-forty hours; a variation in the price of the three-per-cents. brings orders from half the Capitals of Europe and America to buy or sell stock; and a little extra speculation in corn at San Francisco puts all the provincial markets of England in a stir and perhaps culminates in a few days in a panic in Mark-lane. And yet with all this we are not quite at the end of our tether. What is to be our next exploit? The Atlantic cable has lost more than half its charm within a couple of years, and even in Imperial eulogies upon the advancement of science no one thinks of attempting to round off a sentence or to work up an oratorical climax by the remotest allusion to so commonplace and trifling a fact as the telegraphic intercommunication of the Old and New World. The Cunard passengers turn to the *Times* on their arrival in the Mersey for the latest news from Washington and New York as a matter of course; and we recognise the fact simply as one of the ordinances of Nature. Talk of it as one of our triumphs of civilization on the Liverpool flags, and the cotton-brokers will turn their heels upon you as an interesting specimen of the genus VERDANT GREEN. All that they are thinking of now in the way of ocean telegraphy is how to get their messages a little oftener and a little cheaper, how to bring Calcutta a few hours nearer, and how to carry the wires from Cape Comorin across the Indian Ocean to Sydney and Wellington, across the Pacific to Cape Horn, over the pampas and through the forests of South America, along the banks of the Susquehannah through Mexico to New Orleans, Washington, and Boston, and thus complete the circle. And of course this will be done.

The purchase of our Telegraphs by the Government has set free millions of capital hitherto locked up in our own island wires; and Ocean Telegraphs are the necessity of the hour. The transfer of the wires to the Post-office has put an end to all the speculations that might have been developed in the interest of the public service by the spirit of rivalry among ourselves. Perhaps the Government will be able to do more for us than we have been able to do for ourselves, and to do it cheaper into the bargain. We hope they will. The Postmaster-General and his lieutenants Mr. SCUDAMORE and Mr. EDMUND YATES will have anything but a pleasant time of it if they do not, if for the next ten years they venture to publish a balance sheet showing a trifle in the form of profit upon the working of the wires. Every town and every village will have to be brought within the Electric circle; and it requires very little imagination to anticipate the sliding scale of charges for messages from a shilling to a penny, that most of us may possibly yet live to see, the supercession in fact of no small part of the correspondence of the Post-office by the wires. Once let us get below the sixpenny standard and the increase of business will in very little time bring the Post-office down to penny messages for, say, five or six words just as the tariff reductions of Sir ROBERT PEEL brought us down step by step to custom duties of the most trifling description, counter-balanced in every case by an increase of business and a rise in the amount of the revenue returns. This, however, we hope, is not to close our telegraph vista. We want to see a little more perspective in the picture. Of course the Government will permit nothing to be done that will in any way infringe upon their monopoly. But we must hope and believe that it will be possible within the limits of this Imperial monopoly to develope private telegraphs. Sir CHARLES WHEATSTONE a few years ago talked of laying down a dozen wires within, if we recollect rightly, the compass a of lady's skein of silk, for use in families; and that idea ought not to be lost sight of. Why should not every manufacturer here in Birmingham, in Nottingham, Leeds, or Manchester have a coil of wires brought from his country house or his mills and workshops into his library, at his country house at Handsworth, say, or Edgbaston? We know no reason in the nature of things, why with a MORSE instrument in their hands our contemporaries, the Editors of the *Post* and the *Gazette*, should not sit down in their dressing gowns and smoking caps and criticising over a cigar one of the brilliant articles they have thrown off at the office, telegraph the correction or two that we all of us wish to make after supper, when correction is impossible, and ask in return for the last scrap of intelligence that the telegraph boy has brought in. The Duke of SUTHERLAND has a private wire connecting his hall with the head-quarters of the London Fire Brigade, and why should not people who choose to go to the expense lay down private wires from their houses to their places of business, and even with the private houses of their own sons and daughters? This idea of ours may sound slightly chimerical to-day. It will not to-morrow. The commonplaces of to-day are generally the chimeras of yesterday, and in 1875 people will probably be wondering how people got through the day without the use of a coil of private telegraph wires, just as we are wondering to-day how people got through their day a few years ago without their morning supply of REUTER.

COMMERCIAL ECONOMY OF EMIGRATION.

THERE is an aspect of emigration which may be regarded as purely commercial. There is a ledger-value which a manufacturer or merchant may estimate in every man, woman, and child in a nation or country. No patriotic consideration enhances this value; for commerce, pure and simple, has no patriotism. It merely enters a man's consuming capacity in its ledger. How much worth can he eat, drink, and spend in clothing, furniture, and other necessaries and comforts? Where must he live to buy the most of these articles, and to buy them of the London, Manchester, or Liverpool merchant? This is the main question with that merchant. The answer to this com-

mercial question would be, "Where the customer could earn the most money to buy with, whether in the United Kingdom or the United States, Australia, or the Canadas." He may be worth ten times more to the Manchester merchant in the United States than in Ireland. And this is the absolute, proven fact. What was the potato-eating peasant of Connaught worth to him as a customer while living in his turf hut half burrowed in the earth? How much did he spend for broadcloth, hats, shoes, carpets, and other furniture in a year? Would the whole average one pound sterling per annum? Now follow that peasant to one of the New England or Middle States. You find him in a manufactory working by the piece, or on a farm for four shillings a day. His wife takes in work to do at home with her needle, and trains her children to help her. With their united savings they lay by money for building them a house, all the while clothing themselves more like their native American neighbours. The ambition to look and live as well as they is a constant stimulus to industry and increased skill in labour. In a few years they move into their own house, or take a better one on lease. Now a new ambition acts upon them. They must furnish this new house to make their home as respectable as their neighbour's. They must send their children to the public school to sit on the same bench side by side with the children of the first people in town; and the mother would be ashamed to have hers go shabbily dressed, either to school or church. At every stage of their progress, at every new turn of their hopes and experience, new motives are brought to bear upon them to stimulate them to new efforts to rise to a higher level of life and enjoyment. That family now spend in manufactured or imported articles £20 a-year against £1 in their mud cabin in Ireland; and the English merchant gets his proportion of profits on these £20, and doubtless ten times as much as he would have done if the man had remained where he was born.

In this commercial aspect of emigration there is hardly any investment that can pay a better profit to the manufactures and commerce of England than the sending out of the thousands of non-producers and non-consumers in the United Kingdom to any country beyond the sea where they will make themselves purchasers of English productions. In the broad sense of material interest, commerce has no country but the world; and emigrants from England or Ireland cannot expatriate themselves from the realm of English commerce whatever country they may choose abroad. Whatever commercial value that country may derive from them, the portion of it left for their native land will be worth more than if they had stayed at home. Even with the present high tariff in the United States which bears so heavily on English goods, every British immigrant there is worth more to English commerce than before he left the kingdom. This is an aspect of emigration that should commend it to the favourable consideration of the manufacturers and merchants of England.

PORTRAITS ON PORCELAIN.—The art of painting on porcelain is being adapted to portraiture with considerable success by Mr. F. Sargent, some of whose productions are on view at Mr. Thrupp's Fine Art Gallery, New-street, Birmingham. The portraits are done in water-colours, being transferred to the porcelain by photography and then completed by the artist. For delicacy of tone and general perfection these porcelain portraits are unequalled. Amongst the collection is an admirably-executed likeness of Mr. Prime, Mayor of Birmingham. Royalty has patronised Mr. Sargent, who has also had many aristocratic sitters.

THE POSTMEN'S CONCERT.—We have pleasure in calling attention to this concert, which is to be given on Wednesday next at the Birmingham Town Hall. Independently of the "Postmens' Provident Fund," the musical bill of fare is a most excellent one, the artistes including Mdlle. Drasdill, Miss Edith Wynne, Mr. Cumming, MM. Sainton and Stepan. Mdlle. Drasdill will, by request, sing, amongst other songs, Mr. Edward Capern's touching little song "The Robin is Weeping," which was so well liked last year. The programme will include a new song by Mr. Heap.

THE ROBIN HOOD RIFLES.

It is in accordance with the fitness of things that the volunteers of the county town of Nottingham should be distinguished by the title of "Robin Hoods." Sherwood Forest was the home of the famous outlaw and his band—the abiding-place of Little John, Will Scarlet, Much the Miller, and Friar Tuck; and the valour of those sturdy rogues will never pale as long as the name of Robin Hood exists. Could the hero of Sherwood Forest have taken a glance into the history of the future, and thus witnessed the formation of the volunteer regiment which bears his name, he would have sighed that Enfield rifles were not to be invented in his time. What execution the merry outlaws would have done amongst the long-antlered stags and gentle does of the forest had they possessed the deadly missiles which are now in the hands of every volunteer! As it was it fared hardly with those of the liege whom busines took through the leafy glades of Sherwood unprotected by an armed force. The yard-long shaft, with its sharp-pointed tip, was fruitful of injury, when its owner's hand was not rendered unsteady by the previous night's potations; the yew bow sent the arrow rustling through the forest paths, until it struck the breast of some fat buck, or unhappily pierced the doublet of a rich traveller peacefully journeying on his way, counting up his gains, and recking little of the fate so soon to overtake him. Clad in Lincoln green, Robin Hood's followers, while they were doubtless the terror of all peace-loving folks, imparted an air of romance to Sherwood, and a colouring to our history, which, if it has been productive of no particular good in these after-days, has yet stimulated our youth to deeds of pluck, and taught them to regard the sturdy yeomen of the Middle Ages with admiration not unmixed with wonder.

The "Robin Hoods" of to-day possess all the pluck without any of the attributes which brought the Sherwood Foresters into disrepute with the constituted authorities; and it is in consideration of the high position they hold amongst Volunteers that we engrave the picture, on page 461 of to-day's paper, of the Robin Hood Rifles drawn up in review order.

When the Volunteer movement originated, the Robin Hoods were amongst the first to enrol themselves under the banner which has for its motto "Defence, not Defiance." The regiment was formed in 1859, and it was on the 25th of August in that year that the late Duke of Newcastle, in Mr. Patchitt's park, christened the battalion the Robin Hood Rifles. Numbering altogether something like 1,000 men, the Robin Hoods make an imposing appearance. Their uniform of Lincoln green, with black appointments, is more popular than the bold outlaws' dress, which, to speak truthfully, few cared to inspect except from a safe distance. The battalion is almost as well known in the Metropolis as in the Midlands. We learn from the excellent Guide to Nottingham published by Messrs. Allen and Son that the principal public appearances of the regiment are as follows: June, 1860, at the great volunteer review by the Queen and the Prince Consort in Hyde Park; 1861, review by the commander-in-chief at Warwick; 1864, review by the Prince and Princess of Wales in Hyde Park; June, 21, 1864, review by the Commander-in-chief at Doncaster; June 23, 1866, review by the Commander-in-chief in Hyde Park; August 11, 1866, review at York before the Prince and Princess of Wales; in 1867, review at Derby; June 20, 1868, the review before the Queen at Windsor. In October, 1860, colours were presented to the battalion by Lady Belper on behalf of the ladies of Nottingham; in August, 1865, the battalion was inspected and entertained by Lord Belper (Lord-Lieutenant) in Kingston Park. The battalion has the good fortune to enjoy a considerable amount of patronage. Its popularity, and, in a great measure, its success as a regiment, are mainly due to the unceasing energy and perseverance of Captain and Adjutant White, "whose whole life," says the authority from which we quote, "appears devoted to the one object of developing in the Robin Hoods what the volunteer force of Great Britain, aided by good officering, may become." The regiment has evoked the praises of Royalty—in 1860, at the review before her Majesty and the late Prince Consort, the Prince, "in a loud voice, which was distinctly heard by the writer and others in the vicinity, thrice gave expression, in the most unqualified terms, to his admiration of the movements; and in 1866, at the review in Hyde Park, the Duke of Cambridge gave expression to his feelings in a similar manner and in almost the same words as his late illustrious and lamented relative." The field officers of the regiment are —Honorary Colonel, the Duke of St. Albans; Lieut.-Colonel, C. J. Wright (commanding); Majors, the Hon. H. Strutt and J. S. Cooper, Esq.; Captain and Adjutant, J. White.

ROSSETERS' HAIR RESTORER is the only preparation which can be confidently relied upon for restoring grey hair to its original colour. It assists nature in supplying the colouring properties which may have become deficient through age or disease. Price, 3s. 6d. per bottle. 628

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The thaw of the Danube has commenced.

The annual meeting of the Fox Club was held on Saturday at Brooks's.

Steamboats on the American plan are to be introduced on Lake Geneva, Switzerland.

The students at the new University at Glasgow have succeeded in raising over £1,000 towards the erection of a gymnasium.

The Wicklow Peerage Case is not yet over. Mrs. Howard refusing to be sworn was ordered into custody, but released on paying the fees.

Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., will take the chair at the annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which will take place at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, on Saturday, May 14.

A suit for separation *a mensâ et thoro* is announced between the Count Girgenti and his wife, the Infanta Isabella, daughter of the ex-Queen of Spain.

There was a riot among the South Shields pilots on Saturday, caused by nineteen of their body having the monopoly of piloting several screw steamers from the Tyne. One of the pilots was badly injured.

The French Government has declared it impossible to continue the attitude of non-intervention towards the Œcumenical Council hitherto maintained. It has, therefore, officially demanded that a special representative of the French Government may be admitted to take part in the deliberations of the Council, at least in so far as relates to the points touched upon in the schemata.

THE COURT.—The Queen remains at Windsor Castle and drives out almost daily. The Prince of Wales returned to London from Lincolnshire on Saturday. Some particulars of his Royal Highness's visit are given under the head "News of the Midlands." The Princess of Wales has contributed the sum of £26 5s. to the Norwich Jenny Lind Infirmary for sick children. The rumour of the intended visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland is incorrect.—The Queen held a Drawingroom on Wednesday at Buckingham Palace.

A ROYAL QUARREL.—The French journal *Figaro* "knows from a source of good authority" that though certain journals pretend that the ex-Queen of Spain and her husband have made up their financial quarrel, peace is not yet existing between the Royal pair. "These are the principal reasons given by the ex-King. During the eighteen months of exile the ex-Queen has spent not only the revenue from the £1,000,000 of which she may dispose, but £200,000 of capital. 'If this continues,' says Don Francis 'in six months we shall be *sur la paille*.' 'At that date,' replies the wife, 'our son will be King, and the rulers of Spain do not count their money."

THE COURT IN IRELAND.—"Eblana" writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette* in answer to a suggestion of that journal that the Drawing-rooms at the Irish Court should take place at night. The real opponents of this reform are the London tradesmen, according to "Eblana;" who think it might cause a possible loss to trade. "Eblana" gushes over the lively, sparkling, and interesting character of this ceremony at Dublin Castle:—

There are no hushed voices which seem to dread the presence of the gigantic beefeater or the battleaxes of the Gentlemen-at-Arms. Here the conversation is lively and brisk, the Corkagian brogue mingling merrily with the semi-Scotch sounds from Ulster. The doors are guarded by dragoons and guardsmen, and the entrance to the throne-room is protected by two young and cheerful aides-de-camp, who, instead of terrifying the already too frightened ladies, encourage them with words and smiles as they approach the Viceregal presence. And then the patient is kissed! Here is the point of the whole evening. It may be pleasant or unpleasant; wives and husbands may disagree; but it is the duty of the Lord-Lieutenant to kiss every lady that is presented to him, and it is the duty of every lady on being presented to be ke kissed by his Excellency.

LONDON ENTERTAINMENTS.—With the fashionable season close at hand London managers of theatres and other entertainments are bestirring themselves for the amusement of their patrons. A brief summary of what is going on in the amusement world may interest many Midland readers. Italian opera will shortly be given at Drury-lane, and Covent Garden will be opened under the joint management of Messrs. Gye and Mapleson. At present "Peep o'Day" is being played at "the Lane," with a screaming new farce called "Phobus's Fix," in which the Vokes family appear. Mr. Sothern is playing Lord Dundreary at the Haymarket, and will shortly appear, with Mr. Buckstone, &c., in a new "rustic" comedy, "Barwise's Book," by Mr. Craven. At the Adelphi, the veteran manager of which never permits the entertainments to droop and languish, Mr. Henry J. Byron is playing in his original pieces, "Blow for Blow," and "Not such a Fool as he Looks." They are doing "Chilpéric" (opera bouffe) in English at the Lyceum; the "Dance of Confusion" is a thing to be seen. The Princess's under Mr. B. Webster's management, has a strong bill—"Your Life's in Danger," "Paul Lafarge" (adapted from the French), with Mr. W. Rignold, Mr. Belmore, Miss R. Leclercq, &c.; and Scribe's "A Dark Night's Work." At the Gaiety, "Uncle Dick's Darling" (Mr. Toole, Miss Neilson, Mr. H. Irving, and Mr. J. Clayton); and Sala's clever and successful burlesque "Wat Tyler, M.P.," retained their places in the bill until last (Friday) night, when the burlesque was to be withdrawn. Mrs. Rousby is exciting great enthusiasm in Tom Taylor's "'Twixt Axe and Crown," which is preceded by a comic opera in one act called "Quick March," by Mr. F. Wallerstein. "Little Em'ly" is still running at the Olympic, where Mr. Gilbert's burlesque "The Princess" is very cleverly played. Mrs. John Wood has made a great hit as the Princess Pocahontas in "La Belle Sauvage," at the St. James's, where they are also playing "She Stoops to Conquer." The Strand presents "Ino," "The Heir-at-Law," and "Toodles." To-night is the 347th representation of "School" at the Prince of Wales's Theatre! "Philomel" is a success at the Globe. Mr. Burnand's "Black-Eyed Susan" burlesque is still attracting large audiences at the Royalty, where Mr. Andrew Halliday's "Love's Doctor" precedes the burlesque. "Ixion" (one of Mr. Burnand's best burlesques) is being done at the Charing-Cross Theatre. At Astley's the legitimate drama is being successfully tried, with Mr. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Vezin, &c.

LADY MORDAUNT PERHAPS INNOCENT AFTER ALL!

"A Clergyman" sends the following extraordinary and suggestive letter to the *Times*:—

"I have been unable to read more of the Mordaunt case than your own leading articles and the summing-up of the judge; but, for the sake of the public, I cannot do otherwise than place in your hands the following sketch of a distressing case which came within my own experience about 25 years since, as a clergyman:

"I was then at a well-known watering-place, and was urgently requested to visit a family who were described as in circumstances of aggravated domestic affliction. On my reaching the house I found husband and wife (the former a professional man) suffering under the keenest anguish. On asking the cause I was informed by the husband that his poor wife, to whom he was devotedly attached, had a few weeks previously given birth to a child, and had shortly afterwards, with every appearance of grief and contrition, confessed that her medical attendant, and not her husband, was the father of it.

"So strong was his affection, and so great had been their domestic happiness, that he had determined on making her a suitable provision, and entertained no thought of instituting legal proceedings, though he was to return to his solitary home and leave her in lodgings with the infant. At his request I was present at their farewell, and promised to pay her a pastoral visit from time to time accompanied by my wife, and to watch over her in her forlorn condition. A more heartrending scene I never witnessed, for the grief of both seemed overwhelming.

"Shortly afterwards I again called with my wife, and the unhappy lady alluded with many tears to her infatuated guilt, adding, as an aggravation to her shame, that she had exposed herself to the observation of her faithful servants, and even of her elder children. Again I left her with deep commisseration, but was somewhat surprised, in talking over the case with my wife, to find that she entertained a suspicion of the genuineness of the tale of misery.

"The cause of suspicion was this, that in the midst of floods of tears my wife had observed that the lady, after some moving sentence, took the handkerchief from her streaming eyes to watch the effect upon me, and detected the lurking smile which so often accompanies the weeping simulation of hysteria or insanity.

"Months passed away, and the suspicion proved correct. Her health was restored, and with returning health the delusion vanished. I left the place, but I was credibly informed that the whole mystery was solved; the cloud passed away, and, after rigid scrutiny, it had been ascertained beyond a doubt that the whole history of guilt was nothing but the creation of a distempered brain, and the wife and mother was restored to her husband and family.

"Whether the unfortunate medical man ever recovered his position and practice, after the unmerited stain upon his character, I know not; but the whole transaction convinced me of the calamities which may result from the combination of delusion and simulation in hysterical affections.

"In this case the uneducated minds and easily excited imaginations of the servants were of course ready, after the suspicion had been suggested by the poor sufferer's confession, to corroborate the facts of interviews which, apart from the suspicion, would have been natural and harmless."

A negro has just died in Brazil at the age of 150 years.

An Iowa man recently got drunk, and stuffed a 150 dollar roll of bills in his horse's mouth, and compelled the poor animal to swallow them.

It is stated that the Emperor of the French intends to push forward the execution of the Saint Gothard Railway.

The body of a child, cut to pieces, has been found at Pantin, the scene of the Tropmann massacre. A woman has been arrested; she is supposed to be the mother.

Captain Wedgwood, of the Royal Glamorganshire Light Infantry Militia, was drowned in the Avon between Bath and Bristol a few days ago. His father was in the boat at the time of the accident.

THE SHEFFIELD MURDER. — A barbarous crime has been committed at Ecclesfield, near Sheffield. John Smith, aged 25, and a woman, said to be his wife, were drinking at the Arundel inn; some men began talking to the woman, who drank with them, much to Smith's annoyance. The woman left with the men, and went to an inn on Ecclesfield-common, leaving Smith behind. When Smith arrived there was a disturbance. One of the men, named Bradshaw, appeared to be boxing her husband's ears in a playful manner, and she was laughing at his discomfiture. Immediately afterwards, however, Pearson struck him a severe blow over the head, and, losing his balance, Smith fell heavily to the ground. While prostrate he was kicked over the body and otherwise ill-used. The assault was witnessed by a number of persons in the lane, but none of them had courage to interfere. Smith managed, after some time, to get upon his legs, and fled as fast as possible in the direction of the Travellers' Inn, crying out "Murder and police." His wife was an unconcerned spectator of what was going on, and seemed to enjoy what she considered the sport. Pearson followed the fugitive some distance, and, overtaking him before he emerged into the high road again, struck him several blows, knocked him to the earth, and with a refinement of cruelty jumped twice or three times upon the poor fellow's chest. By this time he was rendered unconscious, and his assailants, finding they had proceeded too far, endeavoured to restore him to sensibility, but without success. Smith died in a few minutes. Pearson was arrested shortly afterwards. When charged with being concerned, along with the other two prisoners, in the murder of John Smith, a tramp, he answered "It's all right." As soon as Mrs. Smith realised the fact that her husband was actually dead she manifested excessive grief, and was with difficulty prevented from throwing herself upon the body. Three men are in custody for the crime.

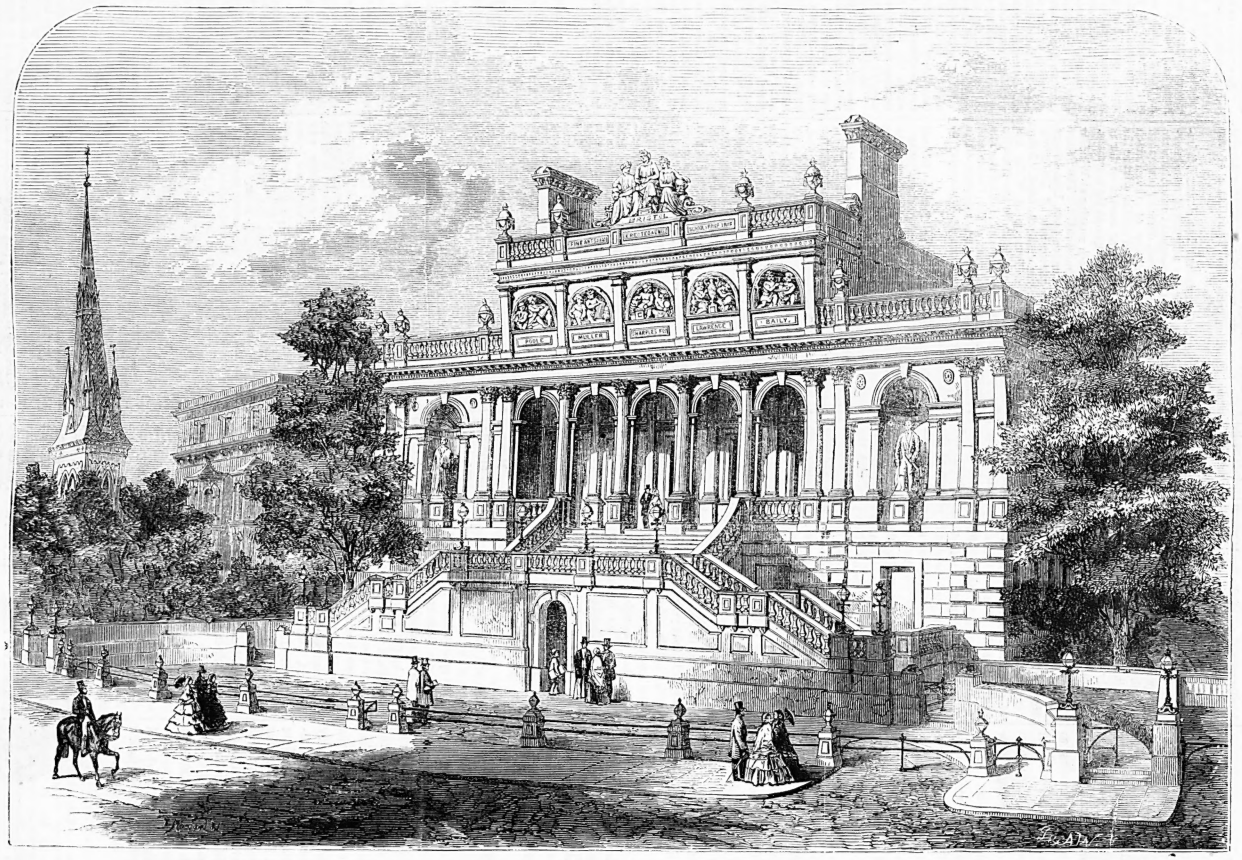
BRISTOL FINE ARTS' ACADEMY.

The Bristol Academy for the promotion of the Fine Arts was founded at the beginning of the year 1845 by Mr. P. W. S. Miles, at that time one of the representatives of Bristol in Parliament. This gentleman, associated with others interested in the advancement of local art, liberally contributed towards the accomplishment of the object, and, with the co-operation of the leading resident artists, a code of laws was drawn up and the institution established. Subsequently to this, Mrs. Sharples, a lady residing in Clifton, the widow of an artist, presented by deed of gift to the trustees of the infant Academy, under certain conditions, £2,000. In 1847 Mrs. Sharples died, having bequeathed by will the remainder of her property, exclusive of a few legacies, to the same institution. Thus the Academy was in a position to build, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining an eligible site, and from other inevitable circumstances, the present elegant and commodious building was not erected for some years. The architects who designed the building and superintended its erection were Mr. J. H. Hirst and Mr. C. Underwood, who generously gave their services on the occasion. This edifice is now one of the most striking architectural ornaments of Clifton. The cost of the erection was £7,000, a part of which was contributed by the Bristol School of Art upon condition of having accommodation for the students within its walls. There are three commodious exhibition rooms for the annual display of modern art, and a life-school open to the members and students six months in each year. The Academy is governed by a managing Committee, consisting of the President (P. W. S. Miles, Esq.), Vice-President (Rev. J. Heyworth), eight Trustees, and five Artists, who are chosen annually from the general body of resident artists as their representatives on the Committee.

The building contains a standard collection of paintings, many of them the work of the Rev. John Eagles. Mr. Robert Lang has also presented a few valuable and interesting works of modern execution. There is a fine marble bust of Ariadne, the gift of Mr. Henry Andrewes Palmer, and Sir Harry Rawlinson has added to the other treasures a collection of important antiques from Nineveh.

The Victoria Rooms, the Fine Arts' Academy, an adjacent hotel, and some fine villa residences give this locality quite a palatial appearance. Perhaps no part of Clifton has improved so much as the bit from the top of Park-street to the Fine Arts' Academy. Within this space we have the Blind Asylum, the Drill Hall and Volunteer Club, and two splendid rows of shops. We hope by-and-bye to give some important illustrations of the district,

The Bristol School of Art has a home in the Fine Arts Academy. We saw it stated recently that Baily's "Eve at the Fountain" is in the Academy. This is a mistake. The Philosophical Institution in Park-street has the honour of possessing this fine work of the famous sculptor.



BRISTOL FINE ARTS' ACADEMY.

ESCAPE FROM A CONVENT.

Two girls named Adelaide Taylor (of Pontypool) and Mary Powell (Birmingham) ran away from the Convent at Handsworth a few day ago, and were taken into custody on Monday about 1 a.m., and charged at the Walsall Police Court on suspicion of stealing clothes. The girl Taylor said they had escaped from the Convent, and they did not wish to go back. Some of the clothes they had were the property of the Convent; but they had taken them because their own clothes were locked up in the "box room," and if the authorities at the Convent would return their own clothes, they (the prisoners) would return the clothes found in their possession. The Mayor said the magistrates had nothing to do with the prisoners escaping from the Convent, but as it appeared some of the clothes found in their possession belonged to the Convent, the prisoners must be detained till half-past one, so that a telegram might be sent to the Superior of the Convent, and if by the time mentioned no reply was received, they would be discharged. The Chief Superintendent immediately despatched a telegram to the Convent, to which the following reply was received—"Mother Frances, St. Mary's Convent, Handsworth, to the Chief of Police, Walsall, Adelaide Taylor and Mary Powell ran away from the House of Mercy. They left in uniform belonging to the establishment. They were free to leave if they had asked." The girl Taylor's statement is to the following effect: Her parents, who reside in Pontypool, South Wales, were induced to allow her to come to Birmingham through the promises of a lady, who said she would procure a situation for the girl. She was accordingly sent to the Convent in Hunter's-lane, which she entered in the capacity of a domestic servant, and has been there five months, but was so cruelly used (according to her statement) that she decided to run away, and Powell agreed to accompany her. During the time Taylor had been in the Convent the sisters had been endeavouring to convert her, and get her to consent to be baptised; and in order to avoid initiation into a church in the tenets of which she does not believe, as well as to escape from a system of cruelty, she took the first opportunity that presented itself of getting away from the Convent.—Immediately on receipt of the telegram the girls were discharged.

More Scandal in High Life.—We are likely to have another great scandal shortly. The story is that a certain peer, now about 60, married, some thirty years ago, the daughter of another peer, and that at the time he contracted this marriage he was already married. When very young (says the London correspondent of the *Brighton Daily News*) he had fallen in love with a girl of obscure origin. In order to quiet her scruples he went through a form of marriage which he believed to be null and void, and which she, too, must have supposed to be so. By his second marriage he has a large family—some in the law, some in the Church, some in the Civil Service, and many of the daughters are well married. There are also children by the first wife. A few years ago this wife-mistress consulted the lawyers, and was assured by them that her marriage was perfectly legal. Thereupon she naturally desired to establish the legitimacy of her children, and her own right to be Countess. But for a time the sinews of war were not forthcoming. Very recently a wealthy brother has returned from Australia, and he, preferring to be brother to a countess instead of to an earl's mistress, has furnished the necessary funds, and it is expected that the case will shortly come on for trial.

Disturbances in Spain.—Disturbances attended by some bloodshed have taken place in Catalayud and Segovia. The Carlists appear determined to attempt a rising. Thirty civil governors of provinces have been dismissed, or transferred to other posts.

THE QUEEN'S COURT.

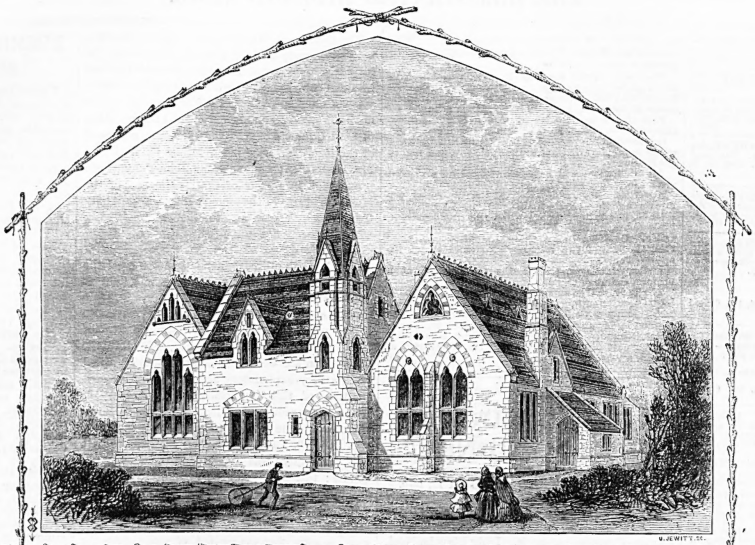
In an article on the last reception at Buckingham Palace, the *Queen* says that a court differs from a drawing-room in many respects. The number is usually limited, and none are allowed to present themselves save in compliance with the special invitation of the Queen. There is no entrée—that is, there is no special entrance and apartment reserved for anyone, as at a drawing-room, where a certain number of distinguished persons have the privilege of being first permitted to approach the Sovereign. At a court there is no distinction, everybody is on an equality, peers and commons. On the present occasion her Majesty appeared in the same costume as usual—viz., a black silk train, trimmed with miniver and crape, the Marie Stuart cap, and long white veil floating over her shoulders, with a coronet of diamonds and sapphires across the head. The rest of her ornaments were diamonds, and she wore the Order of the Garter, the Orders of Victoria and Albert, and Louise of Prussia and the Coburg and Gotha family order. The ribbons of these orders and the jewels considerably relieved the sombreness of the rest of her attire. The Princess of Wales looked remarkably well and pretty. Her costume was a petticoat of white silk, covered with puffings of white tulle, a flounce of gold blonde being festooned round it. The train was of gold and white brocaded silk. The ornaments were Oriental, consisting of pearls, diamonds, and emeralds. The dress of the Princess Louise formed a capital contrast. The train and petticoat were of white silk, the former trimmed with bonds of cherry-coloured satin, the latter covered with white lace flounces headed with ruches of cherry-coloured satin. Among the company generally velvet trains seem to have had the preference. Among others was a ruby velvet train, trimmed with satin of the same colour; the petticoat being of this satin also covered with old point lace. Velvet trains of a dark shade looked extremely well, as they were often worn over white satin covered with rich lace. The show of fine old lace was very great, and mingling with it here and there was more than one entire garniture of modern point. An effective costume was a white tulle petticoat worn over white silk; it was arranged in a succession of bouillons covered with flounces of double tulle, in the centre of which was a bunch of tulips, all of different colours. The train was white silk, trimmed with violet tulle, and on each side were large rovers of white silk, which met in a point at the back with a large bow, the panier pouf standing up above them. Where the train touched the petticoat on each side was another large bouquet of variegated tulips. Paniers were almost universal, and there were rather more trains worn from the shoulders than last year. Where paniers were not worn lace flounces or squares of lace were laid on the train at the back, and never was a fashion invented calculated to show off old lace to better advantage. Lappets, feathers, and flowers seemed all to be worn more forward on the head than of yore. Tiaras and diamond stars studded on velvet, or about the hair were very general. The popular style of setting some of these diamond flowers, on a stem that vibrates at every movement, adds not a little to their brilliancy. Wreaths of flowers (and these really were more trails than wreaths) were most worn by debutantes, the others wearing tufts of flowers.

The late Mr. Etches.—Vice-Chancellor Stuart has approved of the compromise made in the suit instituted for the administration of the estate of the late Mr. Etches, of Derby, who left a legacy of £20,000 Crystal Palace Ordinary Stock, and £10,000 Seven per Cent. Preference shares in the same company for promoting the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sundays. The compromise has resulted in the directors of the company taking half of the legacy for the purpose mentioned.

CLEVEDON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

These Schools centrally situated in the lower village, near to the Railway-station, were built in the year 1858, from designs of Messrs. Pope and Bindon of Bristol, at a cost of £1,400; a part of which cost, £600, was defrayed by a Government grant. The chief contributors from Clevedon were Sir Arthur Hallam Elton, Rev. George Weare Braikenridge, Jerdone W. Braikenridge, Esq., and Conrad Finzell, Esq. The style of architecture is the Venetian gothic; and the buildings look uncommonly pretty with its background of green fields capped by Christ Church on the top of Clevedon hill. The rooms are 45ft. by 19ft. each, for boys and girls, with a class-room, and afford accommodation for some 200 children. The residence of the master, Mr. Henry Tipper, is between the two schools.

We may add that the various Government Inspectors have always reported the schools to be in a high state of efficiency, and they have several times been awarded the first prize in the New Decanal Schoolmasters' Association.



CLEVEDON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, DROITWICH.

The parish of Saint Nicholas, Droitwich, or as anciently called St. Nicholas in Wyche, appears formerly to have belonged to important people on the continent, as it is stated to have been given by Philip, Earl of Flanders, Mathew Earl of Bologne, and his daughter Ida, Countess of Bolonge "to God and the Church of Fouteoraud, and to the convent of Westwood in perpetual alms." As to this convent of Westwood, it is said that, "Eustachia de Say and her son Osbert Fitzhugh, having given the church here (Westwood) to the Abbey of Fouteoraud in France, in the reign of Richard the Second, here was shortly afterwards a small priory, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, for six nuns of the Benedictine order, which, at the dissolution, was valued at £78. 8s., and the priory and most of the lands belonging to it were then granted by Henry VIII. to John Pakyngton, Esq.," of Hampton Lovett, immediately adjoining.

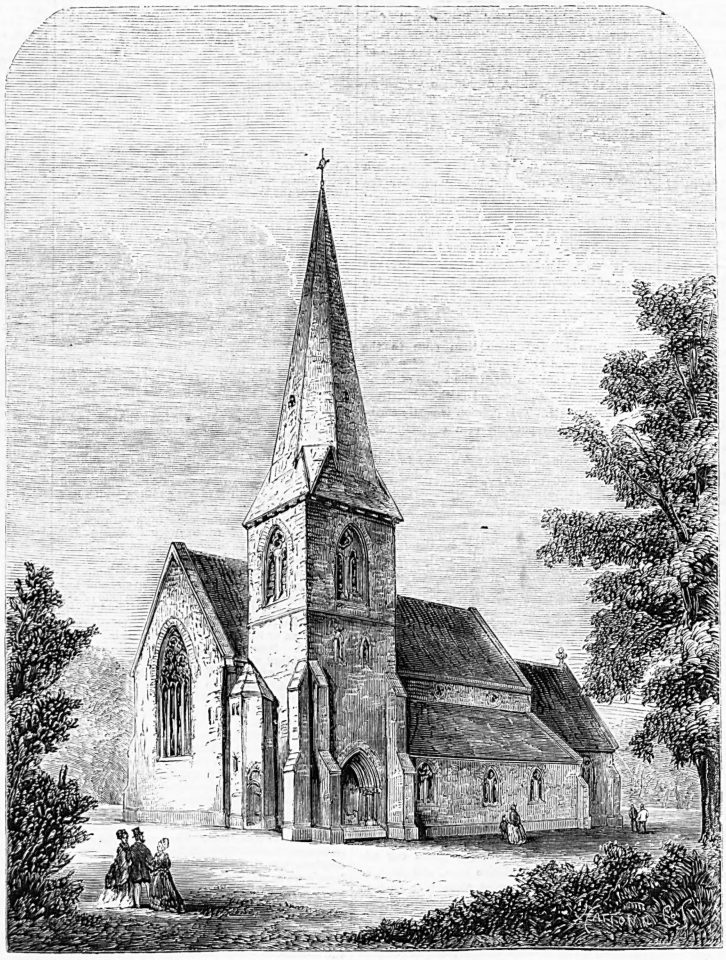
The old church of St. Nicholas (situate near Friar Street, in the town of Droitwich) went to decay. According to some, it was never used for divine service since the Reformation. This seems uncertain; but part of the ruins were remaining within the memory of many people. The nave, however, all disappeared years ago, and the site has been sold and built on.

The parish of St. Nicholas, being without church or minister, was in 1843 attached to the adjoining parish of St. Andrew for ecclesiastical purposes only.

Within the last ten years the population of the parish has considerably increased by the operations of a building society, and from other causes.

This led to a desire to build a church and regain parochial independence; and the project was commenced by a noble offer of £500., by Mrs. Miller (now of London), who had sold her lands in the parish to the building society. In January, 1865, a committee was formed to obtain subscriptions and grants, and made good progress to that end; but in April of the same year the chairman (Mr. Richard Smith, of Westacre,) died. The committee was then re-cast, and elected Dr. Bennett chairman, and Mr. J. Smith hon. secretary; and after many delays and difficulties succeeded in obtaining sufficient funds to build the church, which was completed in 1868. The churchyard was purchased and fenced by the parish. It was not, however, until towards the end of 1869 that means enough to secure a small endowment were forthcoming, and this was a necessity before the church could be opened. The committee have been greatly assisted in their work by the Right Hon. Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., and by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. The church was consecrated December 14th, 1869. It stands in a favourable and conspicuous position near the railway station. It is built of sandstone, from Hadley in the parish of Ombersley, and is in the decorated style of the 14th century. It consists of a nave with clerestory, chancel, south aisle, and provision for a north aisle in future, the piers and arches being already built. The church is at present calculated to seat 250 people, but numbers greatly in excess of this habitually attend the services. The tower (under which is the entrance) is at the west end of the south aisle. It is designed for a spire, not yet built. On the north side of the church is a small vestry. The windows have varied tracery and are of Hadley stone. The caps of the piers are of Bath stone, but with the exception of those to the chancel arch are not yet carved. The same stone is also used in conjunction with the sandstone for the interior walls of chancel. The roofs and seats, and stalls in chancel are of deal, varnished; the prayer-desk, lectern, and altar table, of polished oak. The pulpit is of Painswick stone, but is not yet carved. The font is the gift of Mrs. Miller, carved by Forsyth, of Worcester, from designs by the architect, and is of Painswick, red Mansfield, and Caen stone. The windows in chancel are all filled with stained glass, given by Mrs. Miller, and painted by Preedy, of London. The subject in the east window is "The Ascension," and in the four smaller north and south windows are "The Nativity," "The Crucifixion," "The Resurrection," and "The Descent of the Holy Ghost." Mrs. Miller also gave the altar-plate. The Rev. W W. Douglas gave a cross for each gable of nave. The handsome altar-cloth was given by Lady Pakington; and the altar paving and an iron chest for documents by the architect, Mr. J. Smith, of Westacre, Droitwich, who also gave the plans and drawings and general superintendence of the church gratuitously. Messrs. Osborn and Inwood, of Malvern, were the builders. The cost of the church, independent of gifts, was £1,700. The church has been recently lighted with gas, the fittings being supplied by Breeden and Booth, of Birmingham. Formal proceedings have been taken to separate the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Nicholas. The Rev. G. V. Wheeler is the present minister and will be the future rector of the parish.

Our illustration is engraved from a photograph by Mr. A. Good, of a drawing by Mr. J. Smith, the architect. At present there is no spire, but one will be erected as soon as sufficient funds are obtained. There is a cross on the east gable of the nave as well as in the chancel.



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, DROITWICH.

SHOOTING A SWEETHEART.—At the Worcestershire Assizes on Monday, before Mr. Baron Martin, Walter Wells (22), farmer, was indicted for feloniously shooting Emma Wells, at Leigh, on the 5th of February last, with intent to do her some grievous bodily harm.—Mr. Streeten prosecuted, and Mr. Harrington defended the prisoner.—The parties lived at Mr. Need's, a farmer, of Leigh, and an intimacy sprung up between them. Prisoner had lived with Mr. Need for about two years, and prosecutrix had been with her uncle for about fourteen years. It appears they were engaged to be married, but about Christmas the young woman requested that the intimacy should be put an end to. After that time prisoner became very violent towards prosecutrix, threatening to "lay her head low," and to kill her. He also knocked her down two or three times. In consequence of this conduct Mr. Need requested prisoner to abandon his addresses to the prosecutrix, and young Wells went home to Bromsgrove. On the 5th February the prosecutrix and her uncle were driving to Worcester in a dog-cart, and when in Gallows-lane they met the prisoner, who presented a pistol at prosecutrix, and shot her in the face, neck, and shoulders. She was at the present time suffering from some of the shots in her neck and face.—Mr. James Need, the uncle, was called, and corroborated the statement of his niece. Other witnesses, including the surgeon, Mr. Cramer, were examined, and their evidence went to prove the guilt of the prisoner.—For the defence, Mr. Harrington called the attention of the jury to the peculiar relationship of the prisoner and the prosecutrix. They had been courting for some time, and the girl broke off the match, which was very exasperating to the prisoner. He had many times asked her to make up the affair, but she refused. It was true that the prisoner had been exceedingly foolish, and he could not ask them to acquit him of a very foolish act, but he contended that prisoner had no intention of doing the young woman bodily harm. He wished to prevent her from having anybody else, and took that mode of doing it. He then called Major Norbury and Captain Bourne, both magistrates of the county, to speak to the character of prisoner.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and after receiving a severe admonition from his Lordship, he was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

The *John Bull* says that the bishopric of Sierra Leone has been offered to the Rev. Henry Cheetham, vicar of Quarndon, near Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES FINE ARTS and INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—To be OPENED on May 5, in the Volunteer Drill Hall, Derby—President: The Duke of Devonshire. The Committee will be glad to receive Oil Paintings, Water Color Drawings, Porcelain (especially old Derby, Chelsea, &c.) Carvings, ancient Armour, Mechanical Models, &c.

Space will be granted to Exhibitors of Mechanical and Industrial products, for which early application should be made, for terms, &c., to the General Manager, Volunteer Drill Hall, Derby. [644.

SALLY IN OUR ALLEY, by R. F. HARVEY, for Piano. "An old melody treated admirably. This piece cannot fail to be much liked."—*Standard*. Sent for 18 stamps.—Duff and Stewart, 147, Oxford Street.

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So keep your arm and eye both steady,
Watch your chances one by one,
To score a point be always ready,
Yet be careful ere you run.

Sent for Eighteen Stamps. Duff and Stewart, 147, Oxford Street.

POPULAR SONG. — CROQUET. — Editions for Ladies and Gentlemen, both Illustrated. Chorus—

Then it's croquet, croquet, a jolly game to play;
At croquet, croquet, we pass time away;
In garden or on green, there never yet has been
Such an awful jolly game as croquet.

Sent for Eighteen Stamps. Duff and Stewart, 147, Oxford Street. [647

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BROWN and POLSON were the first to adopt the name Corn Flour, and they are greatly interested in maintaining its reputation, which is liable to be discredited by the unwarrantable appropriation of the name to articles of a different character.

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A Test sent gratis if desired.

See back page of Advertisements this day. [629

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

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Single Teeth from 5s. — Complete Set from £5.

Notice particularly Name and Address. [434

LADIES IN SEARCH OF A REALLY EFFICIENT SEWING MACHINE ARE INVITED TO SEE THE LITTLE WANZER.—Upwards of 15,000 of these Exquisite Little Machines have been sold in England and Scotland since its introduction, two years ago. The price complete is only 8ls., and includes, in addition to the usual attachments, a Self-acting Hemmer, Hinder, and Quilter, rendering it not only the cheapest, but the best and most complete Hand Lock-Stitch Machine in the market. Wholesale and Retail Depot for the Midland Counties, Oriel House, Bull-street, Birmingham; and 10, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton. Joseph Harris, Proprietor. Agents wanted where none already appointed. [627

NOTICE.

ART DISTRIBUTION.

"THE FISHERMAN'S PRIDE."

In consequence of the numerous applications for specimen copies of the Picture to be published with our paper of April 9th, and in order to facilitate an early distribution, we beg to inform Newsagents, and the Trade generally, that the Pictures may now be procured direct from the Office, 108, New-street, Birmingham, in advance of the April number, on *prepayment*.

On receipt of cheque, or P.O.O., the Publisher will at once send off any number of Pictures required by Trade, and the Parcel despatch on April 9 the same number of papers. But in all cases of advance copies, payment must also be made in advance.

The number for April 9 will contain several Fine Art Illustrations, and a Ballad accompaniment to the "Fisherman's Pride," by Edward Capern.

*** It is hoped that these special arrangements for the convenience of the Trade will induce sufficiently early orders to enable the Publisher to keep the supply of "The Fisherman's Pride" in advance of the demand. The Trade at the same time are requested not to deliver to their Subscribers before March 27.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR APRIL 9.

On April 9, *Special Advertisements* ordered for that date only will be charged 1s. per line. These terms will not affect contracts entered into prior to April 9, nor ordinary advertisements. The circulation of this Number is expected to exceed 30,000 copies.

Wholesale Agents for THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS are being appointed in every town in the kingdom. Terms, and full particulars, may be learnt on application at the Office, 108, New Street, Birmingham.

P. O. Orders to be made payable to the Publishers. Cheques to be crossed Birmingham and Midland Bank.

Communications and orders for Papers or Advertisements should be addressed to the *Publishers*, and not to the Editor.

All remittances will be acknowledged on a printed receipt form, *and no other receipt will be held valid.*

Advertisements are inserted at the rate of 6d. per line up to 25 lines; from 25 up to 50 lines, 9d. per line; after 50, 1s. per line. Space will be measured as lines. Scale and measure may be had on application at the Office. Double columns charged at one-fourth more than the rate of two columns. No extra charge for approved cuts.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths are inserted at a uniform charge of 2s. 6d.

The Trade will be supplied with this paper in London by Messrs. Smith, 186, Strand; by Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., Ave Maria Lane, E.C.; and at the London Publishing Office of the Paper, at 33, Essex-street, Strand. Annual Subscribers can be supplied free by post direct from the Office, 108, New Street, at 17s. 6d. a year.

The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, MARCH 12, 1870.

A MARRIAGE which took place at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Chelsea, on Sunday, has a spice of romance about it. Lady Blanche Noel, daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough, was married to Mr. Murphy, a musician, who had been an organist in the Earl's service, and who had "gained the young lady's affections." The Lady Blanche is twenty-six, and the happy man is three years younger than his fair bride. The fact that the young lady ran away from home a short time before her marriage will make the case more interesting to our fair readers.

THE Mordaunt case was again before Lord Penzance on Tuesday. The question whether Lady Mordaunt's insanity is a bar to any further proceedings in the Divorce Court will be argued before the full Court at the sittings next term. In connection with this melancholy case, a letter in another page will be read with unusual interest.

DEPOSITORS in Savings' Banks will feel aggrieved at the line of conduct persistently pursued by Mr. Lowe with respect to the rate of interest allowed them, and which is to be reduced from 3¼ to 3 per cent. A deputation waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, in the hope of endeavouring to persuade Mr. Lowe to change his mind; but the right honourable gentleman was firm—so firm, indeed, that the *Standard* terms his answer to the deputation a "cold-blooded" one, and asks "whether the change is more or less than a public robbery." Our contemporary (whose opinion we quote without necessarily endorsing it) says if Mr. Lowe were acting in a private capacity he would not dare to do as he has done; and hopes that the House of Commons will "take into its view the persons whose millions, in modest quantities, are thus invested."

WE have alluded more than once to the carelessness—the recklessness, even—of miners, who, we fear, are too often the cause of many of those disasters which spread death and destruction to all around. This opinion is partly corroborated by a correspondent of a contemporary. He writes:—

I was walking in the country, a few miles from this town (Newcastle), and happened to meet a number of miners on their way to work in a pit close by, the majority of whom carried safety-lamps. Noticing that some of them were supplied with an improved form of Davy lamp (which I had heard of but not seen), namely, one having glass round the lower part, I stopped an old man and asked to look at his. Much to my surprise I found that the glass was so broken as to render the "safety" of the lamp an entire delusion; the fracture was evidently not new, and the workman allowed that it had occurred some time ago. Here, then, we have an instance of a mine where safety-lamps are in general use, but no care is taken to see that they are in a serviceable condition. The lamp which I noticed could not have escaped the most cursory inspection, and the question which naturally occurs is—How often are these lamps inspected?

This is a strong argument in favour of a closer system of inspection. Legislation is nowhere more required than in the mining districts which cover so vast an area of England, and particularly of the Midland Counties, where pit and mine catastrophes are of terribly frequent occurrence.

WHICH county is to be honoured by the Royal Agricultural Society's Exhibition in 1871 is not yet decided. Staffordshire puts forward a bold claim, and Salop is pressing to the front with a determination to secure the coveted honour if possible. We have previously given our adherence to the Staffordshire men, and shall be glad to know that the great Show is to be held in the Black Country metropolis. The Wolverhampton committee discussed the question on Tuesday. The feeling in favour of Wolverhampton being selected as the place of exhibition was naturally unanimous, and we understand that subscriptions of £50 and £25 were promised by several gentlemen towards the expenses which will necessarily be incurred.

The citizens of Worcester, at a public meeting held on Saturday, voted almost unanimously in favour of holding the Triennial Musical Festival in the Cathedral as usual. Sir John Pakington was the chief speaker in behalf of the continuance of the Festivals, and strongly urged the rejection of Lord Dudley's offer. The opposition consisted of the Rev. W. Rayson (a Minor Canon,) and Mr. H. Holden; and when Sir John Pakington's proposition in favour of the continuance of the Music Meetings in the sacred edifice was put, only two hands, according to the *Worcestershire Chronicle*, were upraised against it.

THE twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Worcester Engine Works Company was held at Worcester on Tuesday, and we are glad to see that the principal shareholders saw reason to look hopefully forward to an improved state of affairs. Mr. W. T. Adcock, who presided, in the absence on the Continent of Mr. Sherriff, M.P., gave a very explanatory account of the present position of this important undertaking. He noticed the reduction which had been made in the amount due to the bankers, which last year was £26,000, and this year only £2,800. Last half year there was £3,893 due upon open accounts; this half year the amount so due was £12,078:—

The amount running upon acceptance was last half-year £2,541, whereas now it was £10,015. On the other side of the account it might be a matter of disappointment to some that the amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 31st December last was less than that for the half-year ending June 30, 1869; but if the corresponding half-year were compared it would be found that there had been a considerable increase. The larger amounts of profits in the first half of 1869 was in consequence of large profits derived on work in course of construction in 1868, but which was completed and turned out in the first half of 1869. The amount spent upon uncompleted contracts for the half-year ending December 31, 1869, they would find to be £28,372. 19s. 6d., and of this, £19,000 had been spent on engines which were being built for Russia, on which not one fraction of profit had been taken. They would be delivered during the first half of 1870, and would go to the credit of the present half-year. £9,000 had been spent on bridges building for Glasgow, and on girder work, and here, again, no profit had been taken. Presently the contracts would be completed, and then he hoped they would realise a profit which would go to the credit of the present half-year. The Chairman, at the last half-yearly meeting, stated that the directors had a scheme on foot for the reconstruction of the capital account. The losses on capital had been £3 per share on the amount paid, So far there had been no loss to the shareholders; but whenever the time arrived when they were likely to earn a dividend, some amount must go to the reduction of losses previously ascertained, and therefore it would then be the duty of the directors to propound a scheme which would deal with the losses on the capital account. Having glanced at such of the items as seemed to him to require notice, the Chairman said he was not there to attempt to speak glowingly or despondently of the report. He believed they never had a more honest report; they saw the worst of everything. The orders were perhaps small in extent, but they were gradually coming in and increasing. The number of men employed in the former half of 1869 was 472; in the latter half, 467; and for the present year, 592. (Hear, hear.) This showed that a larger amount of work was being done, and this would no doubt bring additional profit.

The report and statement of accounts were adopted, and the directors were empowered to sell such lands, &c., as are required by the promoters of the Worcester Railways and Tramways.

SERIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Saturday evening there was a serious accident on the Great Western Railway, between Stourbridge and Kidderminster stations. Near Hagley, the axle of a truck next to the engine of a coal train broke, and the train of thirty-five waggons was thrown into confusion. Only ten waggons remained on the metals. Seventeen or eighteen were smashed and flung about like toys, the wheels, grease-boxes, and ironwork were wrenched off, and one or two iron-sided trucks were ripped to pieces. One half of the foremost truck was carried on about a quarter of a mile by the engine before the driver could pull up, and the fragment was then jerked partly on the other line of metals. The train was 200 or 300 yards from the passenger station when the wheel flew off the first truck, and a great part of the wreck was deposited between the two platforms. Seven broken waggons of large size were thrown crossways on the two sets of metals; one stood on one end behind them; and next to this was another, which had been broken through by the momentum. These waggons formed a complete wedge between the platforms, both of which were damaged and pushed outwards so much as to need reconstructing for a length of twenty or thirty yards. A little further along was a second blockade. A coal waggon had been tossed in the air, and had fallen top downwards on the opposite side of the line; a truck loaded with iron bars rested partly on this and partly against another inverted truck, and eleven or twelve dislocated wheels lay underneath it. Some of the trucks were pitched over into a siding and crushed to pieces; and altogether the amount of damage done was very great, and seemed to surprise even railway officials, who have had some little experience of railway casualties. A pair of wheels and other equally dangerous missiles were hurled against the booking office, the exterior of which was slightly damaged. Tons of coal were jerked about in all directions, and a person who saw the accident said some of it was hurled up in the air as high as the top of the signal-post. A junior porter had a narrow escape. Luckily the block system is in use on this line, or there might have been a terrible loss of life from other trains running into the coal train. The occupants of the passenger trains were exchanged from one to another, but to do so required a quarter of an hour's walk. The passenger traffic was carried on in this way for the rest of the night. Messages were sent off to Worcester, Wolverhampton, and other stations for assistance, and several hundred men were brought to the spot in special trains. Fires were lighted along the line; but the manner in which the trucks were jammed together, especially between the platforms, made it a slow task to clear the line. It took eleven hours to clear one line, and the goods trains which had accumulated during the night were then sent on.

BUSHBURY CHURCH, NEAR WOLVERHAMPTON.

This picturesque Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is situated in one of the most interesting of the several beautiful parishes bordering Wolverhampton on its rural sides; the parish itself—anciently written Biscopesburie, Byscheburie, Byshbury, and Bishbury—being a favourite resort of those inhabitants of the busy town who are wont to indulge in country rambles, and delight in the charming contrast which the fragrant hedgerows and ceaseless bird-music of secluded lanes and shady woods must ever present to dwellers in a town deriving little fragrance from the chimnies and manufacturing processes necessarily affecting its atmosphere, and inheriting greater profit than melody from the incessant clang of its innumerable hammers and reverberant machinery. The village is situated on the north side of the town, from which it is between two or three miles distant; and the entire parish, which includes the township of Essington and hamlet of Moseley (anciently written Mollesley, a name borne by a local family in the time of Henry the 6th), comprises an area of 6,373 acres, and a population, at the date of the last census (1861), of 2,051. It is first mentioned, says Shaw, in his "History and Antiquities," in the grant of privileges to Wolverhampton Abbey by Sigseric, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 996; and the ancient family of the Bishburyes (long extinct) dates from the time of William the Conqueror's survey. The manor and estate of Bishbury descended, on the death of the last Bishbury without issue, to a branch of the Grosvenor family; descendants of the then Chester Grosvenors (Sir Robert, of Hulme, in Chester), residing at Tettenhall. They continued in the Grosvenor family to the year 1721, when they were sold to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, whose son, having married a daughter of Lord James Cavendish, left the whole to his widow, who sold it to William Huskisson, Esq., (father of the celebrated statesman of that name, and then resident in the parish), who dying in 1790, the manor, with the mansion-house, demesne lands, &c., was purchased, under the will of the deceased, by Peter Tichborne Hinckes, Esq., of Tettenhall-wood, whose daughter, Miss Hinckes, is presently, and has long been lady of the manor. The Church, originally dedicated to the "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin," was given to the Priory of St. Thomas, near Stafford, by Sir Henry Bishbury, in the reign of Edward the 3rd. The ordination of the vicarage, by Roger Northborough, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was made in the year 1350. The tower and nave of the existing edifice, of which our engraving presents an almost directly west view, are said to have been built more than four hundred years, viz., in the year 1460. Shaw says of these portions and the chancel, in 1801—"The fabrick consists of a massive stone tower, a spacious nave, resting on two pointed arches, on short sexagon pillars on the north-side, and four pointed arches on the south-side. The chancel is very lofty and handsome, of excellent stone-work, more modern than the church. The inside roof is also peculiarly well constructed of oak, the lower part of which rests on flying buttresses, curiously covered with the names of Bishbury and Grosvenor." In or about the year 1852, extensive alterations and repairs were made; whereby 250 additional seats were acquired, chiefly by means of the erection of a long narrow gallery, on the south side, which was continued across the west end, where, in the space beneath the tower now open to the lofty vestry, the organ and choir were located. In the years 1853-4, during the churchwardenship of Ralph Gough, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Radburn, a more considerable enlargement and alterations were effected at a cost of upwards of £3,000. The disfiguring galleries, which had been constructed little more than thirty years before, were then, with great good taste, removed; and the north and side walls taken down and so extended on either side as to gain a large increase of seats and greatly improve the interior proportions of the edifice. So disproportionately long and narrow had the church appeared, prior to this extensive enlargement, that the late lamented Bishop of Lichfield had been heard to designate it the "telescope church." The existing interior dimensions are, as proximately as we can ascertain them: extreme length, 138 feet, of which the chancel extends 44; the nave 74; and the curtained vestry in the tower about 20; and width (exclusive of a north chancel, called "Miss Hinckes' Chancel," in which the present organ and seats for the choir are situated,) 60 feet, of which the nave forms about 24. Miss Hinckes' Chancel, which is 26 feet from east to west and was formerly the vestry, extends the extreme width to 72 feet, in the part it occupies. Before these alterations, the extreme width was little more than half this. The height of the nave, from floor to ridge, is between 37 and 38 feet, as is also that of the added south wing, the west gable of which is seen in our engraving. The chancel, which is also wider than the nave, is considerably loftier than these. The tower and chancel, with the exception of renovation of the latter and repairs of the former, were alone uninterfered with in this sweeping improvement; of which the active promoters were the then vicar, the late Rev. W. H. Lister, and Mr. Gough, and to which the largest voluntary subscribers were, as munificently usual, Miss Hinckes and Alexander Hordern, Esq.; the latter of whom gave £1,000. The architect on this occasion was the late Mr. Edward Banks, of Wolverhampton. The edifice, which had previously been heated by ordinary stoves in the interior, was on this occasion provided with a complete and costly hot-air apparatus, by which it is effectually heated throughout. The number of persons for whom the enlarged structure is estimated to afford sitting accommodation is 750; and this number of seats comprises 287 comfortable ones, conspicuously and conveniently inscribed "free." The patronage of the living is vested in varied individual proportions, in certain of the chief landowners of the parish; of whom, in the appointment of the present vicar, the Rev. Henry Fleming Baxter, M.A., Alexander Hordern, Esq., of Oxley Manor, and Escott Phillips, Esq., of Bushbury Hill, had two votes each; H. C. Vernon, Esq., of Hilton Park, the late Joseph Tarratt, Esq., of Berrington Park, Hereford, and H. Webb, Esq., of Stafford,

tained, jointly with her cousins, Mrs. Davenhill and Mrs. Higgs, to Mrs. Lister, relict of the late Rev. W. H. Lister, who was vicar of Bushbury for a quarter of a century, and died in 1864. The living is valued in the King's books at £7 11s. 5½d.; and according to the Lichfield Diocesan Calendar, the present stipend—derived from tithes, fees, and glebe—is about £150; to which is added a commodious vicarage, pleasantly situated on elevated ground, commanding an extensive and agreeable prospect, wherein Wrottesley Hall, the villages of Tettenhall and Codsall, and the far-famed Wrekin Hill are prominent features. The interior of the church—which is embellished by numerous memorial and other stained glass windows, largely lined with monumental tablets, chiefly of modern date, and further adorned by a handsome organ, erected in 1868—has a very pleasing effect, to which the neatness of the wood-fittings, and the admirable cleanliness observable throughout, materially contribute. The oldest and one of the handsomest memorial windows is situated at the west end of the nave, and was contributed by the Foster family—of which Mrs. Lister and her cousins are surviving members—in memory of numerous and specified departed members. A second and handsome one, situated at the east end of the south aisle, was contributed by one vote each; and an eighth single vote per Alexander Hordern Esq., in memory of his only son James, who died in his twenty-first year. A third, very recently erected by surviving members of the Tarratt family, to commemorate the late Joseph Tarratt, Esq., occupies the corresponding west end of the same aisle, and is a very striking and beautiful work of art, executed by Messrs. O'Connor of London. Two other handsome windows, severally commemorating the late John Pountney, Esq. (formerly of Low Hill, in the parish) and Maria his wife, face each other on the north and south sides of the chancel, where Miss Hinckes has added four other windows. The principal other ornamental window, situated at the eastern extremity of the chancel, facing the Foster window, was also presented by Miss Hinckes: whose distinguished benefactions—more especially in church building, church endowment, church restoration, and church schools—are known throughout the diocese. The finely toned and tastefully ornamented organ was constructed by Messrs. Forster and Andrews, of Hull, at a cost of £300, subscribed by owners and occupiers of land in the parish. Of the still existing local families in memory of members of which monumental tablets are seen within the edifice, may be enumerated the Hordern family, originally traders and bankers of Wolverhampton; the Tarratt family, long and until lately eminent merchants of that town; the Corser family, still locally represented by the senior partner of a leading Wolverhampton law-firm; the Warner family, of which the surviving head, William Warner, Esq., was one of the earliest mayors of Wolverhampton, and continues one of its most respected magistrates; and the Wightwick (of Wightwick) family, formerly resident in the parish, to commemorate the last male survivor whereof, the late Stubbs Wightwick, Esq., of Cheltenham, his since deceased relict, a daughter of Richard Fryer, Esq., one of the two first parliamentary representatives of Wolverhampton, erected a marble tablet. The well-known names of Littleton, Leveson, Wedgewood, Huskisson, and Whitgreave also appear on the less modern tablets. Historical readers will recollect that the Whitgreave family is distinguished by having afforded temporary concealment to the royal Charles, on his way to Bentley. The individual member of the family, which has ever been Roman Catholic, in memory of whom the tablet in Bushbury Church appears, is the Thomas Whitgreave to whose courageous loyality the fugitive prince was so deeply indebted. A monument in the south wall of the chancel commemorates John Gough, of Old Fallings (in this parish) and Perry Hall, an ancestor of the present Lord Calthorpe. The church clock, seen in our engraving, was first put up six or seven years ago, when Mr. Joseph Bickford, presently of Oxley farm, was one of the churchwardens. Its previous substitute, if we may use the term, was a sun-dial in the churchyard, the ancient stone remains of which are still seen, opposite the south entrance to the church, feloniously denuded of the metal dial. Mr. Bickford's churchwardenship was further marked by the renewal of the peal of bells, six in number, which are very musical; the cost of both clock and bells being defrayed by parochial subscription. The surrounding churchyard which is chiefly remarkable for its extent, and for the beautiful chesnut trees with which it is dotted, as well as for the effective situation of the graceful willow shown in our engraving, and the neatness of the surrounding walls and prettiness of the porched entrance, was greatly extended and beautified in the year 1863 or 1864, when John Sidney, Esq., of Wolaston, was one of the churchwardens. By the instrumentality, chiefly, of Mr. Sidney, an acre of land, purchased from Miss Hinckes, was added to the churchyard, together with the entirely surrounding new stone wall, and the elegantly-porched principal entrance gate. This was effected at a cost of £800, including that of a widened external approach, bounded by stone walls; which was defrayed by voluntary subscription and rates, to the former of which Miss Hinckes contributed with her accustomed liberality. The churchyard contains several noticeable monuments and tombstones, of recent erection; among which may be mentioned an elegant monument to the Rev. W. H. Lister, erected by subscriptions of the parishioners, as "a memorial of their affectionate regard, &c.;" a tastefully carved tombstone erected by Stavely Hill, Esq., Q.C. and M.P., in memory of the beloved wife of whom he was deprived, in her 30th year, in 1868; a vertical and solid white marble cross, in memory of the late Joseph Tarratt, Esq.; and a large elaborately-carved horizontal slab, in commemoration of the late vicar of Alrewas, the Rev. George Fraser, B.D., who had previously been vicar of St. Mary's, Wolverhampton, for 26 years. The two last-mentioned memorials were rendered further remarkable, at the date of our recent inspection, by elaborately arranged and freshly placed floral decorations; consisting, in either case, of a large prostrate cross, and in the case of the late Mr. Tarratt of an *immortelle* and graceful spiral wreath. The whole four, as well as other conspicuous monuments and tombstones, are guarded by surrounding palisades, several of which are appropriately and tastefully designed. There is also a monument to commemorate a female relative of the late Rev. John Clare, of the Deanery, Wolverhampton; who preceded the Rev. W. H. Lister, as Vicar of Bushbury; and within the enclosure of this monument is rooted the willow previously referred to. The widened approach to the churchyard is flanked, at its southern angle, by neat and commodious school buildings, erected by Miss Hinckes, about 35 years ago; on her demise they will devolve upon the vicar and churchwardens, in behalf of the parish. The number of pupils now on the books of these schools is about 150. For the accommodation of parishioners inhabiting the township of Essington, a chapel of ease, constructed of iron, is there erected. Its resident curate is the Rev. W. S. Escott, whose stipend is contributed partly by H. C. Vernon, Esq., and partly by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Mr. Vernon's liberality further provides the curate's residence, built for the purpose, and situated within the confines of Hilton Park. School buildings are attached to this chapel of ease; and the number of pupils on the books about equals that upon the books of the parent church schools. Doles, considerable in amount, accrue from various ancient sources in the parish of Bushbury, and are annually distributed to poor parishioners, in cash and clothing, by the vicar and churchwardens. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, and the London and North-Western Railway, which has a station and important junction near the village, traverse the parish, which is studded with a number of handsome mansions and villa residences, among which may be enumerated Oxley Manor, the residence of Alexander Horden, Esq.; Old Fallings, the residence of Richard Briscoe, Esq.; Moseley Court, the residence of John Moreton, Esq.; Moseley Hall, the residence of N. N. Tolly, Esq.; the Holmes, the residence of B. Hicklin, Esq.; Bushbury Hill, the residence of E. Phillips, Esq.; Oxley House, the residence of R. Shelton, Esq.; Gorsbrook, the residence of Ralph Gough, Esq.; Low Hill, the residence of Mrs. Norton; the Ford House, the residence of Miss Tarratt; New Oxley, the residence of Mrs. Rogers, widow of the late Edward Rogers, Esq.; and Wobaston House, the residence of John Sidney, Esq. Bushbury Mansion, mentioned in Shaw's "History, &c.," a large building, situated on high ground near the church, and remaining the property of the lady of the manor, is occupied as a farm-house by Mr. John Wilson. Shaw states that in 1801 the principal Fordhouses estate in this parish was the property of the ingenious poet and physician, Dr. Darwin. He also notes that "tradition says that a great road from Chester to London had its course formerly over Bushbury Hill, and from thence towards Wednesfield. However this may be, certain it is that evident traces of a road yet remain in a field half-a-mile N.W. of the church, and which is still distinguished by the name of the London-road."

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

A part of the Workhouse wall at Chell fell down on Friday, killing one boy and seriously injuring two other lads.

The Rev. E. Moore, vicar of Spalding, has been presented to a prebendal stall in Lincoln Cathedral.

EXTRAORDINARY BICYCLE FEAT.—An extraordinary velocipede feat is reported. John Henry Palmer, of Victoria-road, Aston, started on his machine from Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday morning, for Birmingham, accomplishing 88 miles in 12 hours, staying for luncheon on the road. He proceeded from York to Derby on Friday, and covered the remaining distance on Saturday, arriving in Birmingham in the evening, having travelled 220 miles in three days.

NINE COLLIERS KILLED.—We regret to report another fatal colliery explosion. The disaster occurred at Astley's Deep Pit, and nine men have lost their lives. The explosion is supposed to have been caused by an escape of gas from an old "place" which had been disused for some time, some 1,200 yards from the shaft mouth. The explosion fortunately was confined in its effect to a small radius, or the calamity might have been much more serious, as there were over 90 men in the pit at the time. This mine is famous for its great depth, being until lately the deepest in Great Britain. The shafts are 600 yards deep, and it is only of late that that depth has been exceeded.

DESTROYING PICTURES.—We lately reported the wilful destruction of a number of pictures at Wigwell Hall, Derbyshire, by a young gentleman named Henry Goodwin, son of Captain Goodwin. On Saturday, at the Derby Assizes, before Mr. Baron Martin, the prisoner pleaded guilty to having maliciously destroyed, on the 22nd of February last, 17 oil paintings, the property of his father, the damage so committed exceeding £100. The prisoner at first pleaded not guilty, but afterwards withdrew his plea and entered one of guilty. The facts were shortly these: on the day in question, without any apparent motive, the prisoner entered the drawing-room at his father's house, and commenced smashing and breaking the whole of the pictures which hung around. He then threw the remains of the paintings on the fire, where they were found burning by the policemen who were called in. The accused sat by the fireside, coolly watching the destruction of the property, and when interrogated as to his reason for doing so he replied, "O, —— them, let them burn." He was at once taken into custody. It will, no doubt, be remembered that Wigwell Hall was the scene several years ago of the well-known murder of which G. Victor Townley was convicted. There still seemed an entire absence of motive in the case, but it was rumoured in the court that the prisoner had lately given way to intemperance. His Lordship, in passing sentence, said he had carefully considered the case. The prisoner had withdrawn his original plea, and pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with maliciously injuring a quantity of pictures. It appeared quite clear to him (the learned Judge) that he had never intended to deprive any person of any property or to appropriate any property to himself. It was also evident that he did not intend to inflict any personal injury on any one. He had also carefully considered the statement of the learned counsel for the prosecution, that the prisoner hardly intended to do what he had done, and that he had been recommended to mercy by the person prosecuting. He thought justice would be met by sentencing the prisoner to one month's hard labour.

The Marchioness of Tweeddale died on Saturday.

The Worcestershire Agricultural Society's show will be held on August 30th and 31st, and September 1st at Kidderminster.

The pantomime of "Red Riding Hood" is still running at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, and its withdrawal is not yet announced.

The Bishop of Winchester, who had to preach at Chertsey lately, had his episcopal robes sent by the wrong train, and had to preach in the surplice and hood.

Judgment in the Kelly divorce case was given by Lord Penzance on Tuesday. The wife is allowed £164, half of the respondent's income, as permanent alimony.

THE THORNCLIFFE COLLIERY DISPUTE.—The negociations between Messrs. Newton, Chambers, and Co. and their former workmen have again failed. One detachment of soldiers left Thorncliffe on Sunday.

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE ROYAL.—To-night (Saturday), and on Monday and Tuesday evenings Mr. Sims Reeves will appear at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, as advertised in another page. "Formosa" and "The Tempest" have kept the bill at this house all the week.

A grocer named Thomas has been committed for trial by the magistrates at Cheadle, Staffordshire, on a charge of fraud. After becoming involved he purchased goods to the value of £500 on credit, and then gave a predated bill of sale, to his sister, under which bill of sale all the goods were sold by auction.

HENGLER'S CIRCUS AT BIRMINGHAM.—The circus company of Mr. Hengler is performing at Curzon Hall, Birmingham. The troupe includes two clowns, Franks and Nat Emmett; and several artistes of equestrian fame. An amusing part of the entertainment is M. Olivier's performing monkey, which turns somersaults and does various feats on horseback. J. W. Liskard, the "musical comique," is amongst the company, which is altogether one of the best travelling. Miss Jennie Louise Hengler was to make her first appearance last night. The arrangements of Mr. Russell, the business manager, are excellent. Afternoon performances are given on Thursday and Saturday.

THE GAME LAWS IN WARWICKSHIRE.—The Game Laws formed the topic of discussion at a meeting of the Warwickshire Chamber of Agriculture at the Shire Hall, Warwick, on Saturday. It was decided not to petition in favour of Mr. Wykeham Martin's game bill, because it did not embrace hares; and a resolution was adopted, applauding the conduct of Lord Leigh, the lord-lieutenant of the county, in giving his tenants the right to kill hares and rabbits on their farms, and expressing a hope that other landholders will follow his Lordship's example. It was announced that Lord Willoughby de Broke, of Compton Verney, has already done so, to the extent of giving his tenants leave to kill rabbits.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN LINCOLNSHIRE.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been on a visit to Mr. Henry Chaplin, at the Chantry, Lincoln, and has hunted with the Burton Hounds. The Chantry is a house at Lincoln which Mr. Chaplin and his friends occupy during the hunting season. His Royal Highness brought down twelve hunters with him. The Prince of Wales left Lincoln on Saturday evening at seven o'clock by the Great Northern Railway. The volunteers formed a guard of honour, and his Royal Highness was loudly cheered on his departure. Mr. Chaplin has been entertaining also Colonel Kingscote, Lord Carington, Lord Downe, Mr. Montague, Sir George Wombwell, Mr. Craven, Lord Folkestone, Captain Chaplin, Mr. Ernest Chaplin, and Mr. Cecil Chaplin.

THE BIRMINGHAM WORKING CLASSES AND THE IRISH LAND BILL.—The Land Bill was considered by the Birmingham working men at a public meeting on Saturday night; Mr. J. S. Wright presiding. Resolutions to the following effect, to be embodied in a memorial and forwarded to one of the borough members for presentation to the House of Commons, were passed unanimously: that in the opinion of this meeting the Irish Land Bill is defective, that the clause recognising all existing contracts will only confirm the oppressive and unjust conditions which several of the Irish landlords have forced or are forcing on their tenantry in anticipation of pending legislation, that the Ulster tenant-right system be the principle of a General Land Bill, and that this meeting expresses regret that scarcely any provision is made in this Bill to meet the just expectations of thousands of the labouring classes in regard to the acquisition of land.

BIRRELL AND LAMB'S DIORAMA OF SCOTLAND.—We draw attention to an announcement in today's paper of Messrs. Birrell and Lamb's diorama of Scotch scenery. From a variety of newspaper *critiques* of the entertainment we extract the following from the *Manchester Guardian* of November 24th, 1869:—Of the many dioramas which have appeared during the last few years, we have seen none superior to this. The scenes are selected from the principal cities, towns, lakes, mountains, and other places in "the land o'cakes," remarkable for their natural features and historical and antiquarian associations. The fidelity of the views which are given of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, and Perth, we can speak to from personal knowledge. What is more characteristic of Scotland, however, viz., its mountain, lake, and river scenery, is also admirably pourtrayed. To Scotchmen, at least, the songs of Miss Kate Hamilton, Mr. J. M'Gregor, and Mr. Wolfe Stewart, especially those of the latter, who sang in character, will be equally enjoyed with the other parts of the performance. Mr. William Scott describes the dioramic views as they are introduced to the audience, and adds considerably to the interest of the proceedings by the quaint and appropriate anecdotes he introduces.—The diorama will be exhibited at the Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, for some time.

THE GOSSIP.

The *Owl* will shortly re-appear.

Patti is ill with the quinsey in St. Petersburg.

"Holme Lee" is the pseudonym of Harriet Parr.

The *Dublin University Magazine* has passed into the hands of English proprietors.

Dr. Karl Mayer (the last of the old group of Suabian poets) has died at Tubinger, aged 84.

Charles Mathews gets 70,000 dols. for his two years' engagement in Australia.

Mr. Leighton has been unable to finish his picture in time for the Royal Academy Exhibition.

Mr. Toole is to appear in the opera "Balthazar."

Sir W. Russell, M.P. for Norwich, is said to be a proprietor of the *Tomahawk*.

Mr. John S. Clarke is about to leave the Strand Theatre for New York.

Professor Agassiz is ill from nervous prostration and overwork, and cannot even write letters.

Covent Garden Theatre is to be converted, after the present season, into a central telegraphic *depôt*.

The poems of George D. Prentice, some of which were never published, are to be published soon under the direction of his son Clarence.

Boston theatres keep a man at the door with a revolver, ready to shoot the first pickpocket who cries fire to create a panic.

Francis Joseph has accorded to his brother's wife (formerly Mdlle. Hoffman, an actress) the rank of Archduchess, long denied her.

A new poem, by George Eliot, 800 lines in length (says the *Athenæum*) will appear in one of the Magazines.

Dr. George Macdonald, editor of *Good Words for the Young*, has been assisting a charity by appearing in some private theatricals.

The King of Prussia has abolished a long-standing Hanoverian law, which forbade the opening of theatres on the eve of Sundays and *fête* days.

M. Offenbach gave a *fête* the other day to 150 *artistes* of the Bouffes-Parisiens and Variétés, who did not go home until six a.m.

It is rumoured in Paris that Victor Hugo will shortly permit the performance of the two un-acted dramas that are known to lie in his portfolio.

Messrs. James and Thorne are joint proprietors, with Mr. H. F. Montague, of the new theatre in the Strand. Miss Ada Cavendish has joined the company.

Miss Carlotta Addison has been compelled, through severe indisposition, to resign her part of Bella in "School," at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, but is rapidly improving in health.

Mr. Hambro, M.P. for Weymouth, is, according to the *Brighton Daily News*, part owner of *Britannia* Magazine; which Mr. Arthur A'Beckett edits, Mr. Matt Morgan illustrates, and Mr. Burnand writes for.

Alexander Dumas, it is said, has written a "startling drama" for the Lydia Thompson Troupe, which the original "blondes" will produce at Niblo's Garden early during the ensuing month.

Mr. Mapleson's lease of Her Majesty's Theatre expired at the end of February, and the building is now at Lord Dudley's disposal. The Theatre will be opened next season by Mr. Mapleson.

The French Cabinet boasts two devoted musical amateurs—M. Richard, who is a great admirer of Meyerbeer, and M. Olliver, who, besides playing the violin, has written for that instrument several concertos.

This week a new radical journal, *Le Signal*, was to appear in Paris. The principal contributors will be MM. Felix Pyat, Louis Blanc, Barbès, and even M. Rochefort, who, it is said, will abandon the *Marseillaise*.

Mr. H. J. Byron is playing at the Adelphi in "Blow for Blow" and "Not Such a Fool as he Looks." Both pieces were written by Mr. Byron; the latter, as will be remembered, was first tried at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

Vienna is forthwith (like Paris, Berlin, and Brussels) to have its *concerts populaires*, concerts really popular, and on a scale adequate to the performance of large works. The Chapelmaster Calberg will direct the orchestra.—*Musical Standard.*

The Indian Government has bought 2,000 copies of a novel called "The Bride's Mirror," and given £100 to its author, a government officer. The tale is in the vernacular, and was written to promote the cause of female education in India.

Le Ménestrel gives a singular proof of Mdlle. Nillsson's devotion to art. She joined the Cercle des Patineurs of the Bois de Boulogne, but refused to venture on the ice, lest she should compromise the representations of "Hamlet" and the rehearsals of "Robert."

Miss Faithfull has had the honour of submitting to the Princess of Wales specimens of the work exhibited at the Victoria Press for the benefit of reduced ladies. Her Royal Highness made several purchases, and expressed her approval of such efforts on behalf of women.

We hear the *Illustrated Midland News* has engaged the services of several well-known London wood engravers, who proceed at once to Birmingham. It has often occurred to us that there was ample room in the Midland metropolis for a good wood engraver, and now the experiment is about to be tried, we heartily wish well to all concerned.—*Printers' Register.*

The following spasmodic criticism of Weber's duet in G flat for piano and clarionet appears in *Le Ménestrel*:—"Quelle inspiration, quelle coleur, quel elan, quelle expression pathetique, et surtout, au milieu de l'eclatant final, quelle phrase triste et désolée de la clarinette sur les sombres tremolos du piano. C'est superbe et terrible."

Mr. Southward, the compiler of the "Dictionary of Typography," which is being published in our columns, and those of the *Printers' Circular*, of Philadelphia, U.S., is writing a "Biography of Baskerville of Birmingham," which will contain some new facts in the history of that eccentric printer.—*Printers' Register.*

If it be true that nothing succeeds like success, we *(Punch)* may expect that certain novels which have lately been successful, will, ere long, be succeeded by successors like the following:—

On the Box: a 'Busman's Story, written by the Author of *Beneath the Wheels.*

What his Eye Saw: a Companion Story to the tale of *What her Face Said.*

The Golden Ophicleide: Variations on the tune of "*The Tin Trumpet.*"

The Brains of Bernard: by the Author of *The Tallants of Barton.*

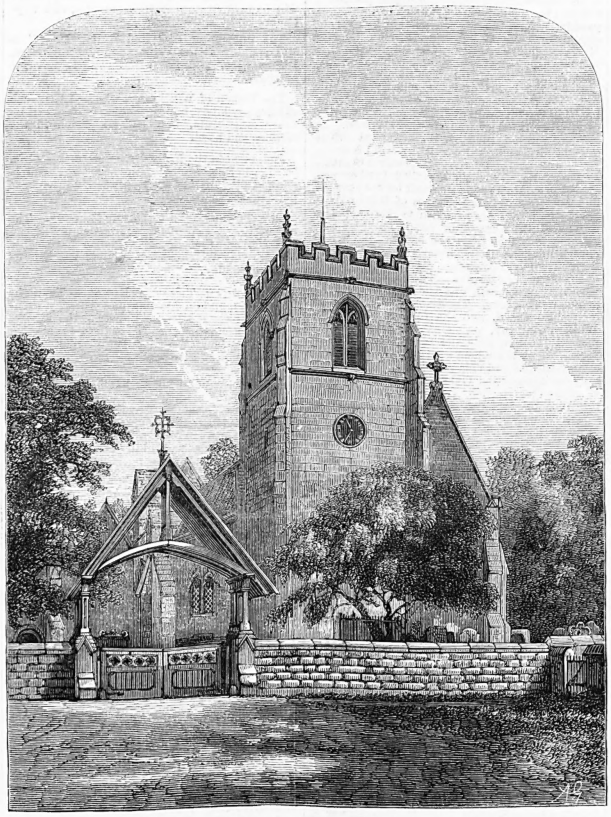
Next Week, a Tale of To-morrows: being a Sequel to *Hitherto, a Story of Yesterdays.*

Goeth Down like a Skittle: a Novel by the Author of *Cometh up like a Flower.*

THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

The Queen of the Netherlands has just visited the extreme end of Cornwall. Her Majesty was received at Penzance by the Mayor and Town Clerk, who (says the *Western Daily Mercury*) conducted the Queen and her party to two carriages and pairs, which drove off at once to the Logan Rock. Her Majesty went to the base of the group of rocks at Castle Treryn, which are capped by the tremulous but massive stone said to have been pivotted and placed aloft by the Druids, but which is the work of an older and more cunning artificer than the bearded priests could command—Nature. The rock having been "logged," and her Majesty having gazed for a short time on the stones piled one on the other, as if by giants' hands, on the beautiful stretch of sea and sand away to Porthcurno, and on the statelier cliffs which oppose their firm fronts to the Atlantic, hastened on to the Land's End. The farthest promontory of England—hoar Bolerium, Cape Storms—was reached, and the expanse of water, with the Longships Lighthouse (over which the sea broke), and the passing steamers and vessels, were looked on for some time. The Queen wished to visit Botallack and St. Ives, but this was impracticable. So, somewhat reluctantly, a start was made Penzance-ward, there being no time to oblige Mr. Moody, a Penzance photographer who was at hand, with a sitting of the Queen, surrounded by her suite, and backed by the wild scenery of the district.

THE CITY OF BOOKS.—Leipsic is the "city of books." In 1867 130,000 cwt. of books were dispatched from Leipsic, and probably as many came in. In 1868 2000 new works were published in that city. Forty-seven printing establishments now exist in Leipsic and its suburbs, employing 1000 journeymen, 300 apprentices, and 450 women. There are also 258 bookselling firms, having business connection with about 3500 houses out of Leipsic. An immense business is likewise carried on in the sale of "second-hand" books. Moreover Leipsic is the principal centre for musical publications, there being twenty-nine publishers in this department. Berlin stands next to Leipsic in publishing importance in Germany, and exceeds it in the number of newspapers and journals issued.

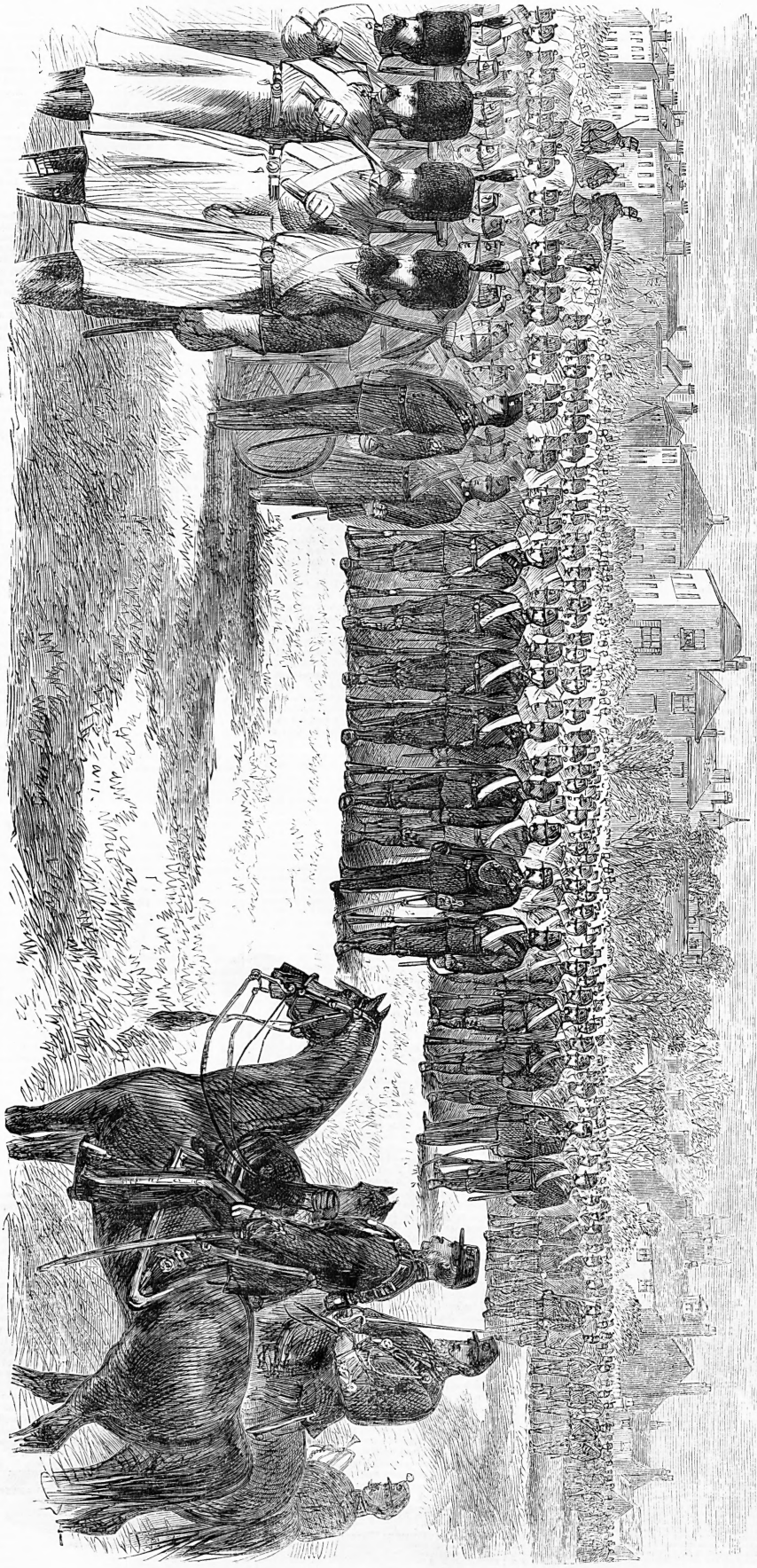


BUSHBURY CHURCH, NEAR WOLVERHAMPTON.—*From a Photograph by C. Hasler.* (*See page* 458.)

AMERICAN JOURNALISM.—Thirty years ago a New York editor seldom had more than two or three assistants, and their emoluments were not commensurate with the labours required of them. Mr. Raymond received eight dollars a week from Mr. Greely. The lapse of thirty years has changed every phase of newspaper life. Each of the great daily papers of New York at the present time employs more than 100 men in different departments, and expends half-a-million of dollars annually with less concern to the proprietors than the outlay of one-quarter of that sum would have occasioned in 1840. The editorial corps at the present day numbers at least half-a-score of persons, and the reporters are equal in force; 60 compositors, and eight or ten jobbing hands and pressmen, to put in type and print the contents of each paper; 20 carriers convey the printed sheets to the readers; 12 clerks and book-keepers are employed by each paper. The editorial salaries now range from 25 to 60 dollars a week; reporters' from 20 to 30 dollars; and the gross receipts of the first-class daily morning papers for a year often reach 1,000,000 dollars, of which an average of one-third is clear profit.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL AS AN AMATEUR ACTOR.—An account is given in *Galignani's Messenger* of the first appearance of the Prince Imperial in private theatricals, at the Tuileries, on Shrove Tuesday. The Emperor and Empress and a large party were present. The piece performed was the vaudeville "La Grammaire":—"The young performers acquitted themselves very creditably, and obtained great applause. They were at first somewhat affected by the emotion inseparable from a first appearance, but afterwards all went smoothly. 'La Grammaire' was originally produced at the Palais-Royal, Geoffroy obtaining much success in the part of Caboussat, the retired merchant, now filled by young Espinasse. It was remarked by one of the guests that nothing could be more natural than that the Prince Imperial should fill the part of Poitrinas, formerly played by *L'héritier* (the heir). We may observe that his Imperial Highness acted with great discrimination, his gestures being good and his voice always perfectly just. Bourgoing did the servant Jean, and Conneau played Machut, a veterinary surgeon. The performance terminated at about half-past ten, and the Emperor frequently gave the signal for applause. It is unnecessary to add that at the termination the congratulations were universal.'

FASHIONS FOR MARCH. (*See page* 462.)



THE "ROBIN HOOD" (NOTTS.) RIFLE VOLUNTEERS. *(From a Photograph by Messrs. Allen and Son.)*

FASHION.

PARIS, MARCH 5.—Novelty is always an attraction here, where yesterday's idol is quickly forsaken in favour of to-morrow's. The *rising* sun is worshipped first. Madame Emile Ollivier is *the* rising sun of to-day, and shines by her simplicity—a simplicity, which causes all ladies of the *Front-pied* class to break out in loud and indignant exclamations. Madame Ollivier seldom wears anything but white muslin, and that, in a society, where every lady appears to make it her whole thought how to eclipse her neighbours in richness and originality—I might, with justice say, eccentricity. For instance, it is one of the fashions of the day, for some ladies to adopt the dress of well-known historical characters. Thus in a modern ball-room, in this capital of capitals, it is not uncommon to meet a Catherine de Médicis, a Diane de Poitiers, a Marguerite de Navarre, or Anne d'Autriche, or a Marquise de Pompadour, or a Marie Antoinette—and, one lady, known as one of the queens of Parisian society, pushes her originality so far, as to appear dressed *à la momie*—which means like an Egyptian mummy; a few trifling alterations being introduced of course! But *apropos* of fashions more within the reach of humbler mortals, I will say a few words on furs, for furs are still *de rigeur* on every style of dress—even on ball dresses! It was an innovation often desired, often suggested, but no one dared make the experiment. The Empress settled the question, and wore, at one of the Tuilleries' balls, a green silk dress, covered with a white tulle puffed tunic, embroidered in silver, and trimmed round the edge with sable! It is said, that the dress was greatly admired. Everything the Empress wears *is* admired, for everything looks well on her; but ladies, who wish to copy her in dress, should consider well, before introducing sable on ball dresses. Firstly, the sable now worn must be of the darkest shade possible, which, I need not add, is the most expensive—and no other fur is considered appropriate. Light coloured and white furs are quite out of fashion. Young girls, however, may have their dresses trimmed with swan's-down, which is very pretty. Another novelty, in the way of furs, is a little humming bird, placed in the centre of a muff, which has the appearance of having flown there for shelter, and seems to bury its beak in the soft fur of the muff for warmth. Ladies, who may not be inclined to have their tulles and gauzes trimmed with sable, will like to know that they can substitute gold or silver embroidered tunics in the place of fur trimmings. Silver is preferred to gold, in this instance, and is considered better taste. By the bye, the dress, which was admired most at the first ball at the Tuilleries, was an amber satin dress, with puflings of white tulle and a band of ruby satin, between each puffing. This dress, with bows for hair, bosom, and waist, was minutely described and illustrated in my first letter (vide *Illustrated Midland News*, of January 22). At this same ball, the Princess Metternich wore a white satin tunic over a tulle skirt, flounced half-way up to the waist. There was another dress, which created much effect: a blue crape, with two skirts, both richly embroidered with silver.

At the Hôtel-de-Ville, the Marquise de Talhouet wore a white tulle dress, flounced up to the waist. Instead of sash, three long tabs of black velvet floated from the waist to nearly the edge of train, where they were joined by a bow, black velvet bow on body and in the hair. Her daughter, the Countesse de Juigné, also wore a white tulle dress, but it was puffed up to the waist and studded with acacia flowers. White satin body, with two long basques at back, and two shorter ones in front, trimmed all round with white bugles and blonde. Acacias in her hair, one long branch falling over her curls at back.

The Comtesse de la Poëze wore a pink satin dress, with train *à la* Louis XIV. A wreath of roses in her hair.

The Comtesse Walewska was in white satin, the train trimmed with English point. Black velvet sash.

The Marquise de Gallifet had a white gauze, with a multitude of little flounces, edged with black velvet. Black velvet tunic and body, opening over an under body of white gauze.

Madame de Valdrôme, white puffed tulle dress and tunic. A scarf of roses, worn from right shoulder, and finishing half-way down skirt, under left arm. Roses in the hair. Very pretty and simple.

Nearly all dresses, whether long or short, are trimmed with flounces, of any number and size, according to the taste or convenience of the wearer. A band of velvet is generally placed as heading to each flounce. As for bodies, it is impossible to say which is most worn, so great is the variety. Some are square, some V shape, some turned back, waistcoat-like, and some with bretelles.

Here is a Spanish dress, which is causing some notice in fashionable circles; though, as a peculiar style of beauty is required for it, it has not yet had many imitators:—A long Figaro net, in which the hair hangs loose, black velvet jacket, over a rose satin waistcoat, a crape scarf round the waist, and a white frilled tarlatan skirt.

Another evening costume is the *Breton*, and is patronised by the Princess Metternich, Countess Pourtalès, and the Marquise de Gallifet. It is composed of a Breton waistcoat, and bretelles over white dress, and a black velvet dog collar, studded all over with Breton devices of every size, in imitation of similar collars worn by the Breton peasantry. At night it is very effective. A large silver ornament should drop from centre of the collar on the neck. Even the ends, which fall down the back, should be fringed with gold and silver.

The cold season, being prolonged so much longer than usual, prevents our great modistes exhibiting their Spring fashions. But bonnets will be prettier and less like bonnets than ever. The *Capulet*, so long and so much talked of, is simply a band of flowers or ribbon, with a square veil draped round the face, Spanish fashion. It has been much worn in Paris, though not yet seen in England. The *toquet* is still the favourite hat in Paris, with slight alterations in trimming. But more of these when the fashions are more fully settled on the point. Till then, *Mesdames, au plaisir*.

E. DE B***.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE. (SEE PAGE 460.)

1.—Walking dress. Grey silk. Short skirt, trimmed with two flounces in large vandykes. Two rows of narrow velvet head each flounce, and loops of velvet between the flounces. A jet tassel at lower point of each vandyke, and a cascade of black velvet loops between each vandyke. Panier tunic, plaited up at sides and back with black velvet bows. A plaiting of grey silk with a cascade of velvet loops in centre form sash at back. Short jacket, open at sides and back, trimmed with narrow velvet, velvet loops, and black fringe, same as tunic. Tight under-sleeves with wristband of double row of velvet loops. Open over-sleeves, trimmed with narrow velvet, and velvet loops. Frill of narrow loops round neck. Grey felt hat, trimmed with flowers, bow of black velvet and lace falling at back.

2.—Ball dress of blue silk, made with train, and looped up in front over a blue crape skirt. The upper skirt is trimmed with three rows of gold braid. Three rows of gold braid are also placed lengthways on body, and hang in three tabs below the waist, each tab being finished off with three little gold tassels. A row of gold braid and fringe round the body and sleeves. A gold comb, flowers, and butterfly in hair. Gold band round the waist. Blue velvet necklet, studded with gold, round the neck. High gloves. Blue satin shoes.

3.—Court dress. A white satin train, covered with flowers and puflings of white tulle. The bottom flounce is edged with three rows of narrow satin. The upper skirt, also train, is composed of silver spangled tulle. The front width is short and forms apron. This skirt is trimmed all round with a white lace flounce, headed by a white satin ribbon. A satin bow and ends to correspond is fastened near bottom of train, with a bouquet of flowers. Two scarfs of flowers also encircle this skirt. Body of satin and tulle, forming small casques back and front, and unite with the satin ribbon on the skirt. White veil caught at shoulders with a bouquet of flowers. Aigrette in the hair. Long gloves. Necklet and bracelet. White satin shoes.

4.—Dinner dress of striped blue and white silk, opened over a white silk skirt. The white under skirt is slightly puffed at bottom, and trimmed with blue satin ribbon. The striped silk dress is turned over with blue satin and is trimmed all round with a wide blue satin ribbon. Body round with a wide blue satin ribbon. Body square, with white lace trimmings and high ruff. Tight sleeves, with blue satin wristbands and lace cuffs. White lace band and sash. Black velvet with gold ornament round the neck. Gold comb in the hair.

SPRING.

Draw the snowy curtains round her,
Spring is sleeping!
Hardly heaving stilly breath
Of an unawakened death
That a living world is weeping!
Only keen-eyed Hope had found her,
Couched where angels watch were keeping.

Far from earthy form and bed
Soul is straying!
Mystic hands in dreams have led
To a pleasant land of flowers,
Where the unborn, joyous hours,
Blissful future homes arraying,
Weave a fancy, paint a thought
That the gushing tide of life
Has from bright hereafter caught.
Swift the vital eddy drew
What was beautiful and true
Downward unto passion's strife;
Love reflected, glory wrought,
Till a glowing image grew
Which The Father flashed anew,
Speaking to chaotic life.

Mavis, hush! Thy call will wake her—
Spring is sleeping!
Ruthless rogue, repose is o'er,
See, her bright face gleams once more,
Coyly from the curtains peeping;
Seeks she dreams that now forsake her?
Blisses that her soul were steeping!

Are those snowdrops which appear,
Shrining whiteness?
Or the feet no mortals hear,
As they flit in joyous haste
When a fairy form is traced
To imprint a brighter brightness?
Breathes she when the violet
Or Narcissé blooms unfold?
Are her eyes the "Ne'er-forget"?
And of blushes on her cheek,
Does the drooping Ribes speak,
As fond Nature's love is told?
Aye, all charms in rapture met,
Bring the maiden mortals seek.
Mavis sing! not low, nor weak.
Spring is coming! Hope is bold.

ROBERT B. HOLT.

LUXURIANT AND BEAUTIFUL HAIR.—A guarantee goes with every bottle of MRS. S. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER, that it will quickly restore grey or faded hair to its original youthful colour and beauty. It stops the hair from falling off, it prevents baldness. It promotes luxuriant growth. No other preparation will produce the same beneficial results. Only in large bottles, 6s. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. Depôt, 266, High Holborn, London. Also MRS. ALLEN'S ZYLOBALSAMUM (a Separate Preparation), the best hairdressing known—makes the hair soft and glossy, and retains it in any desired position.—(ADVT.) [995

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Diarrhœa and Bowel Complaints.—Those maladies are ever present, and if left unattended frequently terminate fatally. It should be everywhere known that both Cholera and diarrhœa originate in the presence of some undigested substance in the stomach or bowels, or some deleterious matter in the blood, and that Holloway's Pills can expel either with ease and expedition. They concentrate in a surprising degree purifying, alterative, regulating, and strengthening qualities, and thus exert over every internal organ the wholesomely controlling influence so necessary for subduing excessive action in the human frame. Holloway's medicine may be advantageously taken as a means of keeping the blood pure and the body cool—the only practicable plan of maintaining health in youth, manhood, and old age. [963

THE WELSH FASTING GIRL.

The magisterial enquiry into the death of Sarah Jacobs was resumed at Landyssil on Saturday. Dr. R. Fowler, 145, Bishopgate, London, deposed to staying in the neighbourhood in August and September last year. On the 13th of August, in company with Dr. Davies, jun., he went to the fasting girl's house. Mr. Davies, in the presence of the mother, asked permission to examine the girl. The father came in when witness was examining the girl, who, when he entered the room, was lying in bed on her back, the light from the window falling on her. She had the expression of health, and no appearance of mental anxiety. He found the pulse natural, between eighty and ninety. The condition of the body was very good as regards fat, about the average of a girl of her age. The skin was moist and supple. He applied the stethescope to her chest, and the sounds were perfectly natural. This was after partially removing her clothing. When he removed the clothing the child went off into what the mother called a fit, which consisted of a closing of the eyes, a moment's apparent unconsciousness, and a slight sobbing. As a scientific man, he would say that the symptoms were not consistent with a fainting fit; they were consistent with a hysterical fit. He examined the stomach by percussion, by tapping, &c. He heard a noise in the stomach—the sound of gurgling. It would proceed from the mixture of air and fluid in motion. If that fluid had not been in the stomach he believed the noise could not have been heard. The mother said that no solid or liquid food had been taken by the girl for about twenty-three months. He was then informed that the girl could not move her left side. He examined her left arm; it appeared to be slightly colder than the right. The left arm was close to her side. He noticed that she slightly moved her left forearm, with apparently less facility than the right. He did not think he felt the left side of the body, except the left leg. He did so by turning up the clothes from the bottom of the bed. The left leg and foot appeared to be slightly colder than the right. As far as he knew from his reading, a person in a normal state of health can fast from seven to ten days without food or drink. The most extreme case on record of fasting was fifty-eight days before death; this was mentioned in a work of recognised authority, the case of a prisoner at Toulouse mentioned by Guy. The longest time a person has fasted without food or water and then given in and recovered was the case of Caspar; but on reading the case it appeared that one day he had some medicine, etherial spirit, and another day his lips were moistened with water. In his opinion if the house had been on fire the girl could have got out of bed and run out of the house—that was when he saw her. He should say from his observation that the girl could not have been in bed so long as twenty three months without using her limbs. Had the girl been in bed for so long a time he should have expected to find sores or marks of pressure on the heel. The girl was lying on a poor thin bed on a sacking. At the time he called, the girl's disease was simulative hysteria. He thought each convulsion she had or was said to have had was hysterical epilepsy, that it might have been coupled with a habit of long fasting, and that she might have aquired such a habit and power of fasting. At the time he saw her he thought the apparent loss of motion in the left side was one of the symptoms of hysteria, hysterical patients having sometimes a great disposition to practise deception. He had both known and read of instances in which children so afflicted had been able to deceive their parents as to the power to move a leg, an eye, or an arm. He had also known cases in which, at first, medical men themselves had been deceived. He had also known cases, and had read of them, in which children had refused to partake of food in the presence of anyone. Hysterical patients were very prone to malingering. He had read of a case in which a malingering patient had gone so far as to suffer amputation of a limb, which on post-mortem examination was found to be perfectly sound. In his opinion no sensible medical man should have taken charge of the child unless guaranteed perfect control over her. Had the girl been a patient of his, and he had had full control over her, he would not have allowed her to go one day without food administered artificially.

Mr. Thomas Edward Davis said he was a solicitor living at Cardigan. He remembered going to Jacobs's house in company with Mr. Rees, of Bristol. Dr. Fowler offered to get the girl into a London hospital if the father was willing. The father replied that he was not willing, as he believed the removal would cause the child's death. He told the father that Dr. Fowler did not believe in the fasting story and that he (witness) thought he was acting very cruelly towards his child. The father then said he was very willing for the doctors to come there to cure the child if they liked.

The magisterial proceedings were resumed on Monday. Mr. Griffiths (Gohebyd), a Welsh newspaper correspondent, was examined as to the part he had taken in arranging for the watching previous to the girl's death.

Elizabeth Clinch, nurse from Guy's Hospital, said he left London on the 8th of December, and reached Jacobs's house on the 9th. Mr. Lewis instructed her to search the room for food, but none was found. Witness asked what was to be done about the girl's having food. Mr. Lewis said, "You are to watch if she takes food or not. If she asks, it is to be given to her. Sometimes she takes a little water to moisten her lips—if she asks, give it her." Witness was to send for Mr. Davies if she saw any danger. The parents were to be allowed to enter the room and have access to the girl. Many persons were in the room giving instructions. The witness then went into details of each day's watching, and the court adjourned until Tuesday when similar corroborative evidence was given.

IMPORTANT.—14, Carr's Lane, Birmingham. Established 1831, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. [537

DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS.—Extract of a letter from Mr. Morris Banks, Chemist, 3, High Street, Birmingham.—"I have much pleasure in stating that I do not remember keeping a remedy for coughs, asthmas, &c., that sold so freely or gave such general satisfaction." They give instant relief to asthma, consumption, coughs, and all disorders of the breath and Lungs. To Singers and Public Speakers they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice, and have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per Box. Sold by all Druggists. [564

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

The Parliamentary business of the week is not specially interesting. In the House of Lords on Monday the Earl of Harrowby moved the second reading of the Owen's College Extension Bill, and explained that its object was to provide for the amalgamation of the present Owen's College at Manchester with the existing trusts, and to give increased power to the trustees. Lord Redesdale opposed the bill, on the ground that it was a measure for private legislation, because it proposed to incorporate a non-existent charity. Earl de Grey and Ripon and Lord Romilly supported the bill, and on a division it was read a second time, by a majority of twenty-seven.—On the same day the state of New Zealand was adverted to by the Earl of Carnarvon, who asked if the Government would allow the 18th Regiment, now under orders to sail, to remain in the colony for two years. Earl Granville (who congratulated the Duke of Richmond upon having undertaken to lead the Opposition) contended that the military occupation of New Zealand by the Imperial Government was not required either as a protection or as a means of defence internally, and asserted that in future we must rely for the protection of our colonies upon our naval supremacy and on the power and organisation of our naval forces. The state of New Zealand was now more promising than it had been for the past ten years, and the Government felt that it would be unwise to detain the 18th Regiment any longer in the colony. There would be no objection on the part of the Government to allow some young officers and some of the steadier of the troops to remain in the colony so as to form the nucleus of a force for the service of the Colonial Government. Lord Lyttelton's opinion was that as the Government approved of the policy which led to the New Zealand war, they were equally responsible with the colony for it, and were bound to see the colonists fairly through it. A motion for the production of the correspondence was agreed to, and the subject dropped.

In the House of Commons the Railway Travelling Bill has been rejected.—In reply to Mr. Stacpoole, Mr. Gladstone said that the Irish political prisoners were treated in no respect worse, but in several respects better, than ordinary prisoners. He was informed that when Mrs. O'Donovan Rossa visited her husband in prison, a short time ago, she was able to congratulate him on his improved appearance. (Laughter.)—The vote for the Army Estimates, £12,975,000, was agreed to on Thursday after a desultory debate; as was also a vote of £4,700,000 for pay and allowances, &c.—The Malt Tax was discussed on Friday, Colonel Barttelot moving a resolution in favour of the transference of the duty from malt to beer, by the imposition of a license duty on public and private brewers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, agreeing with many of the arguments against the tax, admitted that as a general rule levying duties at so early a stage was wasteful and extravagant, but it was easier and more convenient to collect the tax from 9,000 maltsters than from 33,000 brewers. He discussed the various suggestions offered in the course of the debate; and, with regard to Colonel Barttelot's license duty on brewers (which, by the way, would extract some £200,000 from Mr. Bass alone), as it was novel he promised to give it a fair consideration. He would either accept it or give a very good reason to the contrary when he opened the Budget. Mr. Bass was strongly in favour of the reduction of the tax, but thought its abolition impossible, unless the Spirit Duties (and the two put together made up £22,000,000) were also dealt with. He ridiculed Mr. Fielden's "cottage brewing," and complained bitterly of the present license duties on brewers. Colonel Barttelot was satisfied with Mr. Lowe's assurance, and withdrew his resolution.—In Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, the following votes were agreed to:—£968,857 victualling and clothing; £68,794 scientific branches; £878,352 dockyards and naval-yards.—On Monday, Mr. Gladstone having moved the second reading of the Irish Land Bill, Mr. Bryan proposed that it be read that day six months, its chief fault being the unequal manner in which it dealt with the North and South. Nothing would content the people which did not put the whole country under the common law. There was a long discussion, which was adjourned until Tuesday, when the debate was resumed by Mr. Maguire, who suggested the introduction of a prohibitory clause against absenteeism, the abolition of the law of distress, and the division of the payment of the county rate between landlord and tenant. Mr. Ward Hunt admitted that upon the whole the Government bill dealt equitably between the landlord and tenant, but he did not think that the land policy which it adopted was wise or good, inasmuch as the system of tenant-right which it sought to perpetuate was not a sound one. He would support the second reading. The Attorney-General warmly defended the bill, as did also the Solicitor-General for Ireland. The debate was further adjourned.—The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates. A long discussion ensued upon items under the heading of "Miscellaneous Expenditure," for which £34,000 was asked, and Mr. Fawcett moved that the sum of £333 15s. 1d. charged "for the conveyance of the Prince of Wales, Prince Christian, and other distinguished personages from Dover to Calais," be omitted from the vote. Mr. Shaw moved that the charge of £2,968 11s. 8d. for the installation of the Prince of Wales as Knight of St. Patrick, and for the cost of two similar ceremonials, should be also omitted from the vote. After some remarks from Mr. Childers and Mr. Gladstone, both motions were withdrawn.—Mr. Heron has taken his seat for Tipperary County, in the room of The O'Donoghue; and on Monday the Marquis of Bowmont and Sir J. Sinclair took the oaths and their seats for the counties of Roxburgh and Caithness.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT WOLVERHAMPTON.—On Friday, Harry Barnes, a brakesman in the employ of the North Staffordshire Railway, was shockingly mutilated by a railway accident at Wolverhampton. He had just got his train on to the Bushbury siding, and was leaving an office upon the line, when, as he stepped upon the fourfeet, a Midland train came up, knocked him down, took off both feet, and crushed his head and other parts of his body. He was taken to the South Staffordshire Hospital.

NOTES ON THE JOURNALS.

A word for some bird-emigrants. Three thousand live English sparrows have been ordered through the International Land and Labour Agency, Birmingham, for South Carolina, to do the State some service in the same line of usefulness as the "Birds of Killingworth," celebrated in the happiest verse that Longfellow ever wrote.

There is too much reason to fear that ere many days pass tidings may be received of the loss of the steamer City of Boston. The ship left New York for England at the same time as a sailing vessel; the latter has arrived, but the former has not been heard of—neither spoken nor seen. On board the City of Boston were (are still, let us hope) upwards of fifty passengers—officers coming home on leave, ladies, and others; and the officers and crew, all told, number more than eighty men. One hope remains—viz., that in the rough weather which lately prevailed the steamer lost her rudder and became thereby powerless for a time, as is occasionally the case. If that be so, there is yet a chance that all is well. But it is like hoping against hope, everything considered.

A startling item of news comes to us through the Paris press. *L'Histoire* states that "it has been remarked that the Empress Eugènie this year sometimes appears twice in the same dress, which was never the case before." What, we may ask with Bardolph, does this portend? Is the Imperial purse so low that it will not afford a new dress to the fair and estimable lady who is beloved by all France with the exception of Rochefort and his irreconcileables? Or has her Majesty really and truly gone in for economy? We are willing to believe that the latter is the real solution of what would otherwise be an enigma in Fashionable circles. If so, and seeing how plainly Majesty in England is attired, is it unreasonable to hope that this newest Paris "fashion" may be soon adopted outside Court circles? It is a bold thing to hope for, we are aware; but "Hope," the poet tells us, "springs eternal in the human breast," and therefore we may be excused for expressing what some of our fair readers may denounce as an audacious wish.

A scheme has been submitted to Government to extend the postal telegraphs to the colonies. It is proposed to unite all our colonies with each other and with England, Ireland, and Scotland by one continuous cable, which shall be 24,000 miles long. The cost of the scheme is estimated at about four millions; and it is believed that the revenue would be £500,000 a year. What the promoters wish the Government to do is to guarantee the interest on the £4,000,000 at 3½ per cent., and that the colonies shall each contribute *pro rata* to the guarantee. The British-Indian first-class ocean cable, 3,600 miles long, cost altogether £550,000; at this rate, the proposed cable for the colonies would cost £3,666,000, or perhaps £4,000,000. If this daring scheme be carried out we shall indeed at length have put "a girdle round about the world." As regards the cost of the messages, it is estimated that a telegram of 15 words from England to Australia or New Zealand would be 30s.; to India, Cape of Good Hope, or Natal, 20s.; to the West Indies, 15s.; and to America, 10s.

What should be done with the food-adulterators who are so frequently "before the Bench?" Two cases of a most flagrant character are reported. In one instance it was discovered that a London butter-maker had desired to become tenant of a small wharf on the banks of the Thames for the purpose of supplying the poor with butter at the reasonable price of a shilling a pound. One would have thought that this was philanthropy itself, but for the circumstance that the butter-maker intended, incredible as it may seem, to manufacture his butter from *Thames mud!* In the second case upwards of 3001bs. of butter were seized at Sheffield; it was so bad as to be quite unfit for human food. The vendor's defence was that the butter came from Canada, and that candles and soap were made from it! The magistrates ordered the evil-smelling stuff to be destroyed, despite the defendant's application that it might be returned to him. The proceedings being taken under the bye-laws, the Bench was unable to fine the defendant more than twenty shillings. This seems to us to be a most inadequate penalty for an offence of this description. Adulteration is so largely practised in many trades that special legislation is surely necessary.

WIGS, BANDS, FRONTS, CURLS, and CHIGNONS, any Colour or Price, the largest stock in town to select from, or made to measure by first-class men. Human hair manufactured in *all* its branches—the newest fashions at the lowest possible prices. The largest and best 6d. and 1s. bottle of Pomade in the trade; has had an immense sale for eighteen years. Choice Hair Washes, from 1s. 6d. Lime Cream, from 1s. Genuine and delightfully perfumed Lime Juice and Glycerine, from 1s. to 6s. A very large assortment of Hair Tooth, Nail, Hat, and Cloath Brushes, by best makers, from 1s. Dressing Combs in *Tortoiseshell, Bone, Ivory, Horn,* and *Vulcanite,* from 6d. A splendid variety of fancy Back Combs, from 1s. to 5s. Large selection of Fans from 6d. to 63s., including the newest shapes and patterns. The largest stock of Toilet Requisites and Fancy Goods in the Midland Counties, selected from the best houses of Paris and London, at STEELE'S, HAIR CUTTER and ARTIST in HAIR, Opposite the Railway Station, New Street, Birmingham. [301

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

We were grumbling a week or two ago at having to make bricks without straw; but we do not feel at all sure that such a state of things was not preferable to working with the very inferior article at present supplied to us. The Lincoln, Nottingham, and other early fixtures were miserable failures, for the loss of the two-year-old racing seems to have deprived them of all vitality, and the most enthusiastic turfite will hardly object to Sir Joseph Hawley's resolution fixing March 25th for the commencement of the season. Tinderbox and Albatross won a couple of races apiece at Windsor last week, and the old stagers had quite a benefit there, as Owen Swift, Meerschaum, and Sir Bobby were each successful. The last-named little hero is now thirteen years old; but he has not lost all the form which enabled him to create such a sensation through the dirt at Croydon in 1867, by beating Cortolvin, the Grand National winner of that year by fifty lengths, with only a 3lbs.-pull in the weights. Primrose continued her recent career of triumph at Nottingham; and that delightful animal, The Prior, "the best miler in England," as we were told before the last Cambridgeshire, could do nothing with Belphegor at 14lbs. Mexico's victory in the Nottingham Handicap was immensely popular with the "lambs;" but Sycee's performance was so different to her Lincoln running that it occasioned a split in the cabinet. Fan at last managed to win a race, and gave her long-suffering Liverpool backers some hope that their allegiance would be rewarded.

There are one or two interesting items of stud news. The repeated handicap victories of Voltigeur's stock have told their tale, and the subscription to the old horse is full. He will never leave Aske again, and will yet have a fair chance of making a great name. Sunbeam has dropped a very fine own brother to Sunshine, and will remain constant to Thormanby; but Achievement's foal by Beadsman was unfortunately born dead.

Several nasty accidents have occurred lately, both across country and in the hunting field. At the Malton Steeplechases Count Esterhazy and Mr. Spence had bad falls, and both broke their collar-bones. On the same day the Marquis of Ailsa, while hunting with Lord Eglinton's hounds, was heavily thrown at a stone wall, and sustained severe internal injuries. To complete the list of misfortunes, the Hon. Mrs. Loyd Lindsay's horse fell, and, rolling upon her, broke her leg. She is however progressing very favourably.

The Ashdown Park Open and the Ridgway Club (Lytham) meetings unfortunately clashed, while each promised such good sport that coursers must have been puzzled to decide which they would patronise. The weather at Ashdown was cold and wet; but the hares were good, almost too good, in fact, for some of the courses were tremendously punishing. Eight of the Waterloo Cup dogs ran in the Craven Cup, but only three of them—Jack Robin, String of Pearls, and Bacchante—were standing after the second ties. The first-named, a curious, uncertain dog, who never runs twice alike, was one of the last four; but then Rhoda, by Little Wonder, from old Rebe, put him out, and also beat Bacchante in the final course. Black Huntsman does not seem to have benefitted much from his change of name, and only managed to win a simple course as Premier. Claude improved considerably on his Waterloo form in the Uffington Cup, as he won three courses before succumbing to Refraction. Pauline ran two undecideds with Medal in the second ties, and then "went down;" but her own sister, Pensive, avenged this defeat in the second round. She could do no more, however, and eventually Cross Patch, by Racing Hopfactor—Little Fury, ran up to Musical, by Banjo—Braxey. The Ashdown Stakes fell to Baby Blake, by Strange Idea—Curiosity; and Balista, by Cauld Kail—Bergamot, won the Lambourne Stakes.

Only three Waterloo dogs—Bed of Stone, My Goodness, and Swivel—ran for the North and South Lancashire Stakes at Lytham meeting. The last-named was beaten, at "the third time of asking," in the first round: but, curiously enough, the first and second supplied the winner and runner up. Bed of Stone won all her courses unchallenged, in the grandest possible style. She has only once been defeated, by Commodore, in the first round of the Waterloo Cup. Catachysm and Bab-at-the-Bowster were the last two in the Clifton Cup, which they divided. We were rather surprised at this arrangement, as when they met at Altcar "Bab" could do nothing with Mr. Carruthers's representative. A match for £50 aside, the best of three courses, between High Arch and Inkstand, was won by the former, though 4 to 1 was laid on Inkstand when he had scored the first course.

A most important football match took place at Kennington Oval on Saturday last, between England and Scotland. Each country was represented by eleven players, the English team being under the command of C. W. Alcock; while J. Kirkpatrick, captain of the Civil Service Football Club, took charge of the Scotchmen, of whom W. H. Gladstone, M.P., was one. Until fifteen minutes of the time fixed for the termination of the match neither side gained any advantage; but then R. E. Crawford, by a long and lucky kick, secured a goal for the "land o' cakes." The Englishmen made the best use of the few remaining minutes, and just before time was called, a grand run by A. Baker, who played splendidly throughout, converted a defeat into a draw. It is feared that a return match cannot be played till next season.

About every third week our notes on billiards contain an account of the "longest break on record;" but a few days ago the champion made one that it will take any one else, and probably even himself, a very long time to surpass. He was playing an entertainment match at Totnes, with W. D. Stanley, conceding him the usual 200 points. He made breaks of 127 and 117, and then, from half-past nine to about ten o'clock, he held possession of the table, making a grand total of 542, composed almost entirely of 167 "spots," only broken by a single cannon.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Professor Kirkwood, of the Indiana University, publishes some interesting deductions from observed cometary and meteoric phenomena. He considers that the solar system, in its courses through space, encounters masses of diffused cosmical matter, something like the nebulæ, and that the various large planets pick up, by attraction, parts of these masses and turn them towards the sun, and that the said parts henceforward become comets, or meteor streams, to which comets have of late been shown to be related. The comets he conceives to be made up of those particles of the impressed mass, which, in coursing round the sun, are drawn most closely to the luminary and held compact by mutual attraction; and the meteors to consist of the stragglers of the crowd which the feeble gravitation of the mass cannot hold together.

The last has been heard of the disreputable Newton-Pascal forgeries. The fabricator of the spurious letters has gone to prison for two years, and has to pay a heavy fine. Our only object in alluding to the matter is to recall the fact that, the first decisive blow at the genuineness of the documents—a *coup de grace* in the eyes of every convincible man—was struck from this side of the channel. It was dealt by Professor Grant, of the Glasgow University, at the outset of the affair; and if M. Chasles had only listened to the arguments of one who, having written an exhaustive "History of Physical Astronomy," was entitled to a serious hearing, he would have been many thousands of francs in pocket. But men of science are ofttimes very soft.

The air-dust question still engages the attention of the scientific men whom it concerns. The Swiss Professor, De la Rive, writes to Dr. Tyndall, suggesting that the clearness of the atmosphere which is observed before and after rain arises from the fact that the organic particles constantly floating in the air either become transparent by absorbing water, or fall to the earth on becoming heavier in consequence of that absorption. He considers that notices of the transparency of the air ought to be included among the meteorological observations usually taken, and he has devised a photometer for the purpose, some results from which he hopes soon to publish. From a medical point of view the subject has been examined by Dr. Ransome, who has related his experiences to the Manchester Philosophical Society. He condensed the health from diseased and healthy persons in a flask, and analysed the fluid thus collected. He found that the free ammonia varied considerably in both classes of patients, but it was generally less in the diseased than in the healthy. As to organic matter it was calculated that adults breathe forth in twenty-four hours three grains of it in ten ounces of aqueous vapour, a quantity apparently small, but sufficient to make the fluid highly decomposable, and ready to foster the growth of the germs of disease. Hunting for these atmospheric adulterations is seeking for ills that cannot be cured. We must breathe, though we may filter our air with a respirator; but this may do us more harm than good, for it would prevent the escape of the poison which Dr. Ransome has been weighing, and cause us to take back what we cast out of our lungs.

Some American engineers are railing, mildly, against the system of testing steam boilers by hydrostatic pressure. The ordinary plan is to fill the boiler to be tried with water, and by a hydraulic ram to increase the pressure of the fluid till a gauge indicates two or three times as great a tension as the boiler is expected to bear. The objections urged are, that inasmuch as cold water is used, the test cannot fairly show the strength of the vessel when it is heated; and that in most cases boilers are dangerously over-strained by the trials. No doubt damage is often done by overproving, not only to boilers, but to all things subjected to trial; but where is the remedy? The engineers aforesaid suggest none for the evils they complain of.

The latest application of paper is to the manufacture of driving belts for machinery. The makers of them assert that the belts are as durable as those of leather, and equal in strength; they adhere closely to the pulleys, and generate no electricity; wheels as small as six inches in diameter can be run with them without fear of their flexibility being destroyed. They are tough and clean, not hurt by ordinary friction-heat, nor by dust and oil; but they cannot be run in water, and are not recommended where there is a liability to chafing. The cost of the paper is about forty per cent. less than that of leather. As may be supposed, America is the birth-place of this application; the makers of the paper belts being Messrs. Crane Brothers, of Westfield, Massachusetts.

The utilization of coal-dust is a problem still awaiting solution. The direction of attempts hitherto has been towards consolidating the particles by the addition of some agglutinating material; but it appears that the choice of such cement is not large; some, such as tar and pitch, which would be thought too good for the purpose, will not answer; the bricks formed therewith melt and crumble, clog the fire-grates, and give off volumes of smoke. Powerful pressure alone would doubtless form the best coal-blocks, and from a somewhat vague report we infer that this is the agency comprised by a patent lately granted to a Welsh inventor for compressing and utilizing coal-slack. Better it might be to blow the dust in its powdery state into a furnace; this was the plan proposed and tried by Mr. Crampton some months ago for locomotive purposes;—of late we have not heard of it, however.

There was a *conversazione* at the London Royal Society last Saturday evening. Of course the rooms were full of exhibits; but among these there were no very notable novelties. The most attractive object was Captain Noble's chronograph for measuring the speed of projectiles, which was shown in operation. The attendance of visitors was not large.

LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

CHILD MURDER.

At the Oxford Assizes, Rebecca Hyde, who pleaded guilty to the murder of her child, has been sentenced to death, the judge intimating that he should not have received the plea, but that he knew from the evidence the jury would find the prisoner guilty. His lordship said he should communicate with the Secretary of State, with the view of the sentence being commuted.

NEWSPAPER THEFT.

On Saturday, at the Birmingham Police Court, Charles Wright, ostler, was charged with stealing six newspapers from the shop of Louisa Hollins, 116, Moseley-street. The papers stolen appeared to be of a low order, and the prosecutrix said that generally she kept them at the back of the shop, on account of the great temptation they were to boys. The prisoner in 1862 was convicted, and sentenced to a term in a Reformatory School, which he had served, with little benefit to his morals or his education. In 1862 he reported himself to be twelve years of age; now he said he was fifteen. He pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment.

DERBYSHIRE POACHERS.

A poaching case, which has been reported in this journal, was tried at the Derby Assizes, on Monday, by Mr. Baron Clessby.—John Faulkner, William Blood, Daniel Forbes, William Page, and Daniel Shaw were charged with entering by night-time the estate of Lord Vernon with bludgeons and stones, and assaulting James Ling and others. A gang of poachers, of which the prisoners were said to form part, were encountered by Lord Vernon's keepers on his lordship's estate at Sudbury, near Derby, when a desperate fight ensued, the poachers being armed with bludgeons and stones, which they used freely. The keepers got the worst of the tight. Ling was much injured, being beaten till he was nearly insensible. The poachers escaped, but Lord Vernon offered £50 for their apprehension, which resulted in the capture of the prisoners. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty." The prisoners were discharged.

SHOWMEN IN TROUBLE.

At Worship-street police-court on Saturday, Henry Croustauf, 19, a French lad, was charged before Mr. Ellison with having violently assaulted William Alexander Hughes, by striking him on the head with an iron bar. The prisoner paid a penny to see some bears and wolves perform at a house in the Old-street-road. The bears however were only to be seen through a curtain. When the audience demanded to see the bears perform the showman said they would have to pay another penny. One and all refused to do so, and then the man threatened that if they did not get out of the show he would let the wolves out on them. The people were afraid, and there was an instant rush to the door. The man stirred up the bears and wolves, which growled; the people got more frightened still, and fell over one another in their eagerness to get out. Witness was the last of them. When outside, the people began to grumble, and while witness was looking in the show from the outside, the prisoner, who belonged to the show, came up with an iron bar or rod, and struck him over the head with it. He was instantly covered with blood, and staggered away from the place.—The prisoner was remanded for medical evidence of the prosecutor's injury to be produced.

SPURIOUS BAKING POWDER.

Vice Chancellor Sir R. Malins has just heard a motion (Borwick v. Neale) to restrain the defendant from selling, under the name of "Borwick's Baking Powder," a composition which was not of the plaintiff's manufacture. The case was similar to one which came on a fortnight ago, but which was not fully gone into, as Belding, the defendant, attributing the act complained of to the carelessness of a shopman, submitted to a perpetual injunction. Mr. Glasse, Q.C., and Mr. T. A. Roberts appeared for the plaintiff.—George Borwick, carrying on business in Chiswell-street, London, stated that the defendant, a grocer in a large way of business at Norwich, had formerly purchased a considerable quantity of the article manufactured by the plaintiff, but his orders had of late greatly diminished, and, a written order being sent to his shop for "Borwick's Baking Powder," a spurious article was supplied. The genuine powder was always sold in packets or boxes, whereas that sold by the defendant was kept loose and sold by weight, and, instead of being wholesome, useful, and free from alum, as the plaintiff's was, was unwholesome and deleterious, containing 45 per cent. of alum.—For the defendant it was argued that he had never sold or allowed an assistant to sell anything but the genuine article as Borwick's Baking Powder, and the supply of a spurious article upon the written order was due to the inadvertence of a shopman. The Vice-Chancellor said defendant's proper course would have been to have apologised, and to have offered every reparation in his power. The evidence showed that the article manufactured by Mr. Borwick was very beneficial for the public and free from any deleterious ingredient; and the plaintiff having discovered a systematic fraud calculated to injure his reputation as well as profit, he was perfectly justified in coming to the court at once for relief. There must, therefore, be an injunction, according to notice of motion. Mr. Pearson said after what had fallen from his Honour the defendant would submit at once to a perpetual injunction, and pay the costs.

"CANADIAN" BUTTER AT SHEFFIELD.—WHAT PASTRY IS MADE OF!

At the Sheffield Town Hall, on Saturday, Charles Fielding, provision dealer, Snighill, was charged by Mr. Bates, the chief sanitary inspector, with having a large quantity of putrid butter in his possession, with intent to sell it.—Mr. Bates said 330 pounds of bad butter were seized belonging to the defendant, and he could safely say that the smell from a tallow chandler's place of business was often sweeter than the vapour emanating from that butter. It was totally unfit for human consumption.—Inspector Wood stated that he visited Mr. Fielding's shop, and told the assistant he wanted to look at some of his low-priced butter. The latter complied with his request, but the Inspector was not satisfied with the sample shown, and hinted that the proprietor had butter rather worse elsewhere. The assistant said they had, went into the cellar, and returned with a portion on a scoop. Mr. Fielding was then communicated with, and the officer went down and seized four large tubs containing the unwholesome butter.—The defendant said that he had had such butter at certain times of the year for 17 years, and that he used always to sell it to confectioners at 8d. a pound, wholesale price. He told Wood that if he had known he was not allowed to sell it he would not have dealt in it. The butter came from Canada, and he was in the habit also of selling it to persons to make candles and soap. Sometimes he bought 150 and 200 firkins of it. It kept very well for about two or three months. He had the finest butter in Sheffield in his shop, but he generally placed the bad sort in the cellar, and disposed of it by wholesale to certain parties who were anxious to purchase it.—The Magistrates fined the defendant 20s., which was as heavy a penalty as they could inflict under the borough bye-law, which gave them jurisdiction.—The defendant: Can't I have the butter to sell for candles or grease?—Mr. Bates: I shall certainly oppose that application. The butter is in our possession, and we wish to get an order from the Bench to destroy it.—The Magistrates ordered Mr. Bates to burn or otherwise destroy it.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Thursday, Jocob Spimasa was found guilty of the murder of Cecilia Aldridge at an hotel in Finsbury-square, and was sentenced to death by Mr. Baron Channell. The prisoner did not exhibit the least emotion.

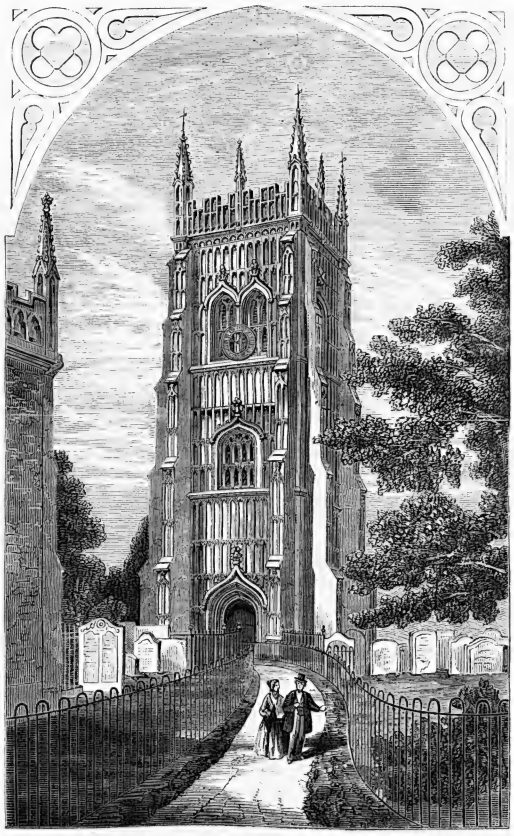
EVESHAM.

Evesham has been called the garden of England. The soil is richer than in any other part of the country with which we are acquainted, and the fertility of the land is shown by the immense crops of grain, fruit, and vegetables annually raised. The fruit and vegetables supply many of the largest markets. Every day trains laden with produce leave Evesham for London, Manchester, Birmingham, and other places. A considerable area is under cultivation by market-gardeners, whose grounds can be seen by the traveller on the Great Western and Midland Railways as he passes Evesham Station. A quiet old town, with (at the last census) its 4,680 inhabitants, Evesham has about it an air of picturesqueness that few other places in the district possess. The long wide thoroughfare shown in our illustration, the market place with a town hall (lately renovated), the two ancient churches, dedicated respectively to St. Lawrence and All Saints; the ancient Norman bell-tower of the Abbey, and the Avon diversifying the land-scenery—these constitute beauties which give the place at once a character and an attraction.

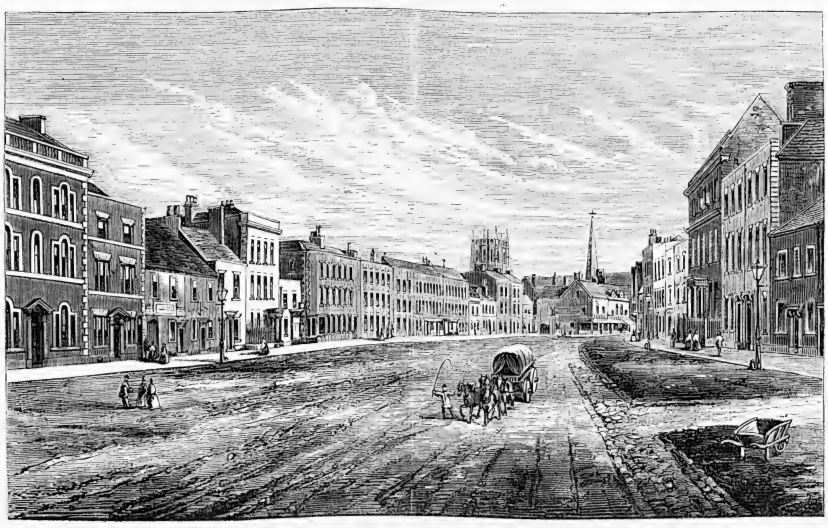
In the summer months the whole country-side flock to Evesham Regatta. This event is a kind of carnival while it is about. Crews from London, Oxford, Cheltenham, Worcester, Tewkesbury, and other places take their boats to Evesham, and compete for the handsome prizes which are offered to all-comers. "Workman's Gardens"—so called from their being formed by the indefatigable exertions of Mr. H. Workman, formerly mayor of the borough—are thronged at regatta-time; a flower show is amongst the attractions; and *éclat* is given to the occasion by the attendance of most of the county families. This is the great local event of the year, though there are occasions when the public spirit of the townsfolk is manifested even more noticeably. A case in point was the visit of the Prince of Wales to the Duke and (the late) Duchess d'Aumale at their beautiful seat at Woodnorton, situated at a short distant from the town, in November, 1867, when the ancient borough was decorated to an extent never perhaps before dreamt of. The Prince received an address from the Town Council, there was a grand "meet" of the Worcestershire hounds, and a ball at the Town Hall, to celebrate the Prince's visit. The members of the ex-Royal Family of France have endeared themselves to the Worcestershire people by their urbanity and unvarying kindness; and the regret shown at the death of the Duchess a few months ago was as sincere at it was general. A curious account is given by old writers of the origin of Evesham. A vision of the Virgin and two other heavenly figures was seen by one Eoves, a swincherd to Egwin, Bishop of Worcester, in a forest near what were supposed to be the ruins of a British church. The Bishop, being subsequently favoured with a glimpse of the same miraculous visitation, erected the Abbey of Eovesham—a name which has only suffered the lopping-off of a vowel through all the transmutions of time.

There are some interesting historical incidents connected with the place. The great battle was fought here between the Barons and the forces of Henry III., in which the former met with defeat; and during the Civil War Charles I. stayed with Alderman Martin, previous to going on to Worcester. In the same year (A.D. 1644), the King took the Mayor of Evesham and some of the Aldermen prisoners to Oxford. Evesham was made a corporate borough by James I., on the special petition of his first-born son, Prince Henry, in memory of whom the town selected its armorial bearings from those borne by the Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and Earl of Chester. Evesham is represented in Parliament by Colonel Bourne, a Conservative; the last Reform Bill having deprived the borough of one of its representatives. Mr. Edward Holland, the well-known agriculturist and the famous sheep-breeder, represented the town for several years in conjunction with Colonel Bourne.

The two churches have nothing particularly striking about them. In All Saints there is a richly-decorated mortuary chapel of Abbot Lichfield. A black-letter book is chained to the lectern, and the five wounds of Christ are represented on a boss in the porch.



BELL TOWER, EVESHAM ABBEY.—*From a Photograph by C. Earl.*



HIGH STREET, EVESHAM.—*From a Photograph by C. Earl*

THE LATEST FREAK OF FASHION.—A correspondent of a German journal says that the reigning colour worn by fashionable people in Paris now is brown. This colour goes by the name of "universal suffrage." Not only dresses, hats, and mantles are brown, but carriages are painted with this fashionable colour. The Tyrolese hats, which some gentlemen have taken to, are now ornamented with pheasants' feathers, parrots' wings, and humming-birds' heads For mourning, blackbirds or ravens, for half-mourning, swallows or magpies, are worn. One enterprising hatter has contrived to fit these adornments with an apparatus for imitating the cry of the bird selected as the appendage. A slight movement of the forehead is sufficient to set the little machine in motion. It is therefore unnecessary to take of the hat on meeting a friend: you frown or elevate the brow, the bird screams, and this constitutes a greeting.

THE THREE CHOIRS.

On Saturday afternoon, in compliance with a requisition to the Mayor, a public meeting was held in the Guildhall, Worcester, to consider the Earl of Dudley's offer of £10,000 to complete the restoration of the cathedral, conditionally on the discontinuance of the use of the cathedral for the triennial musical festivals. The Mayor (Mr. Barnett) presided.

The Right Hon. Sir J. S. Pakington, in moving for a memorial to the Dean and Chapter, praying them to decline Earl Dudley's proposal, said in the many years that he had addressed public meetings in Worcestershire he had never felt more deeply sorry than that occasion should have arisen for him to address them that day. He stated that he had received letters from Lord Leigh, Lord Sandys, Earl Coventry, and Lady Emily Foley, who were unable to attend the meeting, but who authorized him to attach their signatures to the proposed memorial to the Dean and Chapter. As to the objection which had been raised to the continuance of the festivals in the cathedral some of them were too trivial to require notice. As to the objection that for a certain period before and after the festival workmen must be employed in the cathedral to make the necessary preparations, he answered that if it was right to hold the festivals there at all it could not be wrong to make preparations for it. But then remained this objection, that the performance within consecrated walls of these sacred compositions amounted to desecration. He could only say that he could not understand the feeling of those who had held such an objection. He would say that this was the proper place for these songs of prayer and praise to be played and sung, as they were the grandest emanations of human genius. The question of the acceptance of the £10,000 rested with the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral, to whom its care was entrusted, but for nearly a century and a half successive Deans and Chapters had sanctioned its use for the festival, and he saw no reason why they should refuse it now. Public opinion was decidedly in favour of continuing the festival as before. In 1866 Lord Dudley made a similar offer, which was declined, a memorial to the Chapter, signed by 300 or 400 persons, being presented. He (Sir John) declared as a Christian man that he approved of the continuance of the old plan, and, as a conscientious man, he hoped the custom would never be discontinued. He believed Lord Dudley acted from sincere motives, and had he been present, he would have appealed to him directly that this being a question of opinion, and the public declaring overwhelmingly against him, was it for any man—however good his motives might be, or however elevated his position—to endeavour to force his own views of a question of opinion in violation of the opinion entertained by the great bulk of his neighbours around him. Of course if Lord Dudley did not like to attend these festivals, he was perfectly welcome to stay at home. On the last occasion he abstained from attending; but—and he said it with no disrespect to Lord Dudley—the festival went off perfectly well without him. Lord Dudley was a good neighbour, and a man of justice and good nature, but it really would not do in this country for any man to say that because I think so and so, I will try to make every one else think the same. He trusted for the sake of the widows and orphans' charity, for the sake of their glorious festivals, he might almost say for the sake of their own character, that the Dean and Chapter would not part with this charity for money. Let the matter be settled on its merits, but do not let it be a matter of bargain and sale.

The High Sheriff of the county (Mr. T. R. Hill) seconded the motion.

Mr. H. Holden then moved, and the Rev. W. Rayson, minor canon of the cathedral, seconded an amendment, affirming that the use of the cathedral for other than devotional or strictly ecclesiastical purposes was objectionable.

On being put to the meeting, however, the amendment was lost, and the original motion was carried by an overwhelming majority.

THE PRESS AND THE POST OFFICE.

Speaking, just now, of the Press Association, reminds the *Printers' Register* that we ought to place on record the circumstances of the struggles which that well-organised body has already gone through in its endeavour to fulfil its promises and realise the anticipations of its friends. The best-laid schemes, as we all know, "gang aft awry," and the most perfect plans are constantly marred by contingencies the most unforeseen. Whatever fears nervous newspaper proprietors might have had respecting the first week or two's work of the new Association, no one could have anticipated the almost total collapse of the telegraph system so soon as it was transferred to the Government. Yet this was precisely the difficulty which overtook the management the very day it commenced operations, and it is a difficulty which has continued to embarrass it down to the present time. From the daily printed lists issued by the Association, it would appear that its news supplies are delivered with regularity and promptitude; but when these once get into the hands of the Post Office for transmission, their course is most erratic. In some towns these are delivered very late, but with tolerable regularity. In others only part of them are delivered, and these so disjointed as to be practically useless. To others, again, ten or a dozen despatches, delivered at short intervals during twelve or thirteen hours, are sent in a lump, just as the papers for whom they are intended are going to press. In other cases they are not delivered till the day after they are despatched! Hitherto the aggrieved newspaper proprietors throughout the three kingdoms have made every allowance to the Post Office for the difficulties attendant upon the taking up of so large a system as that conducted by the late Telegraph Companies. But at last forbearance is coming to an end. We hear that a general meeting of the members of the Press Association has been called to consider their relations of the Government scheme, and to take prompt measures to prevent the practical destruction of their properties, and the continued disappointment of the masses of population among which their papers circulate.

The *Church Times* announces "that the Rev. Edward Husband, who too hastily submitted himself to the Roman obedience in this country, has been re-united to the Catholic Church of England, having discovered that the real is very different from the ideal, as regards that communion which he was deluded into joining."

CORNISH SCENERY.

We follow up our pictures of scenery on the Devon and Cornish coast with sketches of Tintagel and the Valley of Rocks and a view of the Scilly Isles.

Tintagel is the reputed birthplace of King Arthur, "which," says Caxton, "ought moost to be remembered emonge us Englysshe men tofore al other crysten kynges.' From Boscastle to Tintagel is about three miles' distance, and, as the road is precipitous and difficult for pedestrians unaccustomed to the district, mule-traps are brought into requisition. A mule-cart is rather an uncomfortable vehicle to ride in. It is a tax-cart without springs, drawn by a bony animal about the size of a small horse; the driver is often a stout Cornish woman. A bare wooden board constitutes the front seat, accommodating two persons, while room for a third is found on a high stool at the back of the cart. The driver sits on the ridge that forms the front of the cart. Half-a-mile from Boscastle is the harbour, close to which is to be seen the rare phenomenon of the "blowing hole," which is caused by the water being drawn up into a fissure in a rock outside the harbour, and ejected again with a volley of spray resembling a jet of steam. Some years ago, a young lady bathing in the harbour was sucked into the blowing hole, and never afterwards heard of. At low tide, when the sea happens to be unusually agitated, a column of water is violently projected across the harbour, by reason of a passage underground, communicating with the open sea, which causes a loud report. There is something melancholy and depressing in this iron-bound coast, where even an ordinary fishing-boat cannot be launched with any feeling of security, and where stories of terror abound, from the awful tales of the Cornish wreckers raising false lights in this immediate neighbourhood, to lure vessels to destruction, down to innumerable cases of death by drowning, either from the bathers having been sucked out by the irresistible sand-wave, or drawn off by one of the many strong currents that invest these shores.

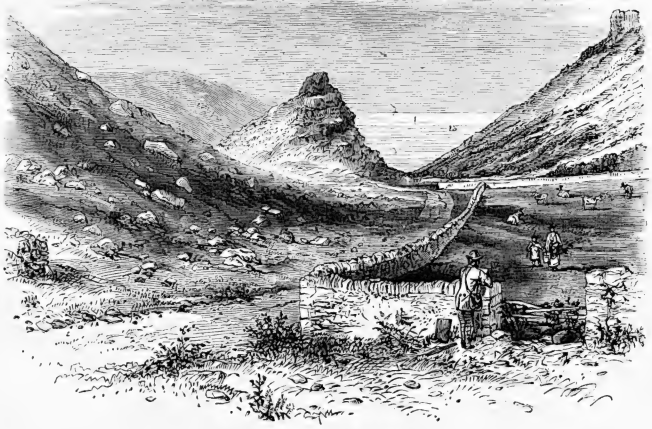
On leaving the harbour you come within sight of "the silent tower of Bottreaux," to which is attached one of the most poetical of the many wild Cornish legends. It is said that a jealousy existed between Bottreaux and Tintagel, on account of the beautiful peal of bells belonging to the latter church, while the former possessed none; and on summer evenings the musical chime of Tintagel bells would be wafted up the coast, to meet with no answering response from the sister tower. The inhabitants raised a sum of money to purchase a peal of bells for their church, and after long and anxious waiting, the day at length arrived when a vessel hove in sight containing the longed-for and precious freight. As the vessel drew near shore the sweet peal of the Tintagel chimes came over the water. The pilot, who was a Tintagel man, uncovered his head with feelings of rapture and thankfulness. "Thank God!" he exclaimed, "that I hear those bells once more! With His blessing we shall set foot on shore this evening." "Thank God upon land, you fool!" exclaimed the captain, in brutal tones; "on sea thank the seaman's skill, the good ship, and the prosperous wind." No sooner were the scoffing words uttered than the wind began to blow high, the fearful waves of that terrible coast grew stronger and fiercer; the captain's cheek grew pale, and the noble ship, with its stalwart crew, sank, never to be seen more, one man alone being rescued from a watery grave—the pilot who had given "God the glory." So Bottreaux lost her peal within sight of her own grey and lichened walls, and according to the "Echoes from Old Cornwall":—

Still when the storm of Bottreaux' waves
Is raging in his weedy caves,
Those bells, that sullen surges hide,
Peal their deep tones beneath the tide!
"Come to thy God in time!"
Thus saith the ocean-chime;
"Storm, billow, whirlwind past,
"Come to thy God at last."

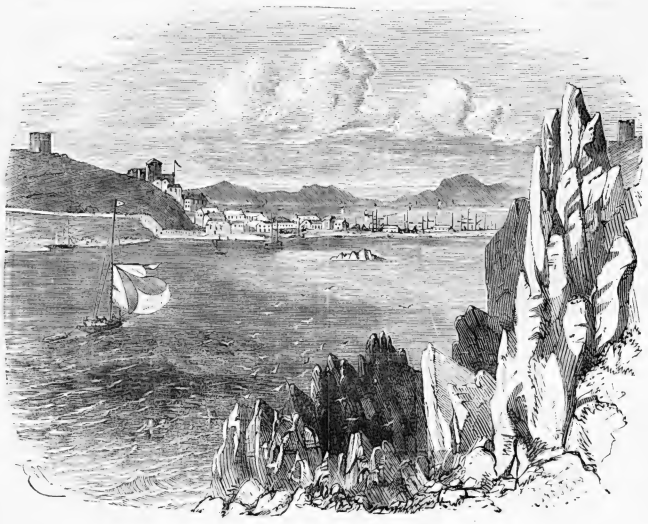
One of the most romantic spots in the neighbourhood is called "St. Knighton's keeve," which, like most other places in the vicinity, has its legend. It is said that two forlorn maidens once took refuge here, and lived in such close retirement that their neighbours failed to discover their names. The only articles of food they could get were snails, which are very plentiful; and here they "lived forgotten" and "died forlorn."

Tintagel formerly sent two members to Parliament! The precept for the election used to be published by the mayor from the summit of a green tumulus, or barrow, opposite the Wortley Arms; and many a joke is still afloat in the neighbourhood, connected with the jovial festivities which attended the elections. On one occasion the returning officer was no man of letters, and proceeded to give the accustomed notice from memory, aided by the prompting of some more learned clerk, who stood at his worship's elbow. It was humbly suggested by a by-stander that the precept was held upside down, upon which the mayor turned towards him with a look of withering scorn: "And pray, sir, may not the Mayor of Bossiney read it upside down if he chooses?"

TINTAGEL, CORNWALL.



THE VALLEY OF ROCKS.



THE SCILLY ISLES.

On the summit of a towering precipice, which starts out in bold sublimity amidst the waters of this northern coast, stand the venerable ruins of Tintagel Castle, "the rude remains of high antiquity." The history of this fortress, like that of other Cornish castles, is wrapt in impenetrable obscurity; and the nature of its masonry appears to be the only principle from which we are to trace its origin. Dr. Borlase is of opinion that the ancient Britons had here a place of defence before the invasion of the Romans. But the present remains are now pretty clearly ascertained to be of Roman workmanship. Norden, who surveyed these buildings when in a less ruinous state, observes that "it was sometime a statelye, impregnable seate, now rent and ragged by force of time and tempestes; her ruins testify her pristine worth, the view whereof, and due observation of her situation, shape, and condition in all partes, may move commiseration that such a statelye pile should perishe for want of honourable presence. Nature hath fortified, and art dyd once beautific it, in such sort as it leaveth unto this age wonder and imitation; for the mortar and cement, wherewith the stones of this castle were layde, excelleth in fastness and obduritye the stones themselves; and neither time nor force of handes can easele sever the one from the other."

The castle buildings were formed of slate, the cement consisting principally of hot lime. They show you King Arthur's footprint (?) "left when he strode across the chasm that separates the peninsula from the mainland." After the Norman Conquest, Tintagel Castle became the occasional residence of several of our English princes; and here Richard, Earl of Cornwall (otherwise known as King of the Romans), entertained his nephew David, Prince of Wales, when in rebellion against the king, in 1245. We read that in Domesday Book Tintagel is mentioned as "Dunchine" or "Chain Castle." It was kept in good repair, and occasionally used as a prison, until the reign of Elizabeth, when it was allowed to fall into ruins, which are now the property of the Duchy.

The Scilly Isles boast of singularities of aspect, soil, climate, and vegetation which it would be difficult to assign as belonging to any single zone. Mr. Smith is the sovereign of the islands, and under his rule the morals of the place have highly improved. Drunkenness is unknown, thieving is rare, and there is scarcely any pauperism. Mr. Smith permits no person to bring up his children uneducated, and he has provided good schools for them. If the head of a family disobeys Mr. Smith, he gets "notice to quit," and, as every other house belongs to Mr. Smith, the next move of the ejected man is necessarily to England. In the old times smuggling was extensively carried on here, and it is said that the clergyman used to make much more by kegs than by tithes.

Mr. Smith's house occupies a dell in the island a little above the level of the sea. The air reminds one of Jersey, it is so warm and balmy. Flowers—many of them tropical or exotic—flourish in the open air. The islanders are very proud; few will admit that they are tradesmen, and tell you, when you go to make purchases, that "perhaps they may *spare* you the articles you want!"

Like all the other places, the Valley of Rocks has also its poetic legend, in which the "Lady of Lee" is the principal personage. The Valley of Rocks has been from time immemorial a scene of devastation, the Castle rock frowning over the channel, and in later days a sad and wild story was enacted there.

Mr. Baron Clesby has certified that the action brought by Mr. Murphy, the anti-Romanist lecturer, against the ex-Mayor of Birmingham, and Inspector Glossop, was a fit case to be submitted to a superior court; and the forty-shilling verdict therefore carries costs.

CLERICAL.—The rectory of Dorrington, near Shrewsbury, has become vacant by the death of the Hon. and Rev. Henry Noel Hill. The rev. gentleman, who was the third son of the late Lord Berwick, and brother of the present peer, was heir presumptive to the barony. He was born in 1804, and was educated at Rugby, whence he proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1828, and was ordained in 1830. In 1849 he was presented by his father to the family living of Berrington, which he held up to the time of his death. It is worth £400 a year, and is in the gift of Lord Berwick.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.
Under the Management of Mr. M. H. Simpson.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.—THE GREAT TENOR,
MR. SIMS REEVES,
Will appear at the Theatre Royal for Three Nights.
SATURDAY NEXT, March 12, in GUY MANNERING,
MONDAY NEXT, March 14, in the BEGGAR'S OPERA.
AND ON
TUESDAY, March 15, being the Benefit and positively the Last Appearance of Mr. REEVES.
Miss ADA JACKSON (of the London Philharmonic) is specially engaged to support Mr. Reeves.
On Monday, March 21, the great tragedian, Mr. BARRY SULLLIVAN. His first appearance in Birmingham. [492

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MORNING PERFORMANCE, EVERY THURSDAY, at Two p.m.
Places can be secured at the Box Office, from Eleven till Three; and by Letters, Telegrams, and Post Office Orders, by Mr. C. Tucker, Box Office.
Carriages ordered at 10.45. [521

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CURZON HALL, BIRMINGHAM.
Open every Evening at 7, Commencing at 7.30. Second price at Nine. Children under ten years of age admitted at half-price during the Evening. Box Office open daily from Ten till Three.
The many thousands who have already visited the Cirque can testify to the excellence of the entertainment.
The Most Celebrated RIDERS, Inimitable CLOWNS, and French GROTESQUES.
Hearty peals of laughter greet the Performances of the WONDERFUL MONKEY, mimicing all the best riders.
FIRST FASHIONABLE NIGHT, TO-MORROW (Friday), March 11th, First Appearance of JENNY LOUISE HENGLER, on the much admired Mare "Gazelle."
FIRST NIGHT of the LANCERS QUADRILLE on HORSEBACK, in Full Uniform. The Figures accurately danced by Eight Trained Horses.
Open at 7; commencing at 7.30.
A Grand ILLUMINATED DAY PERFORMANCE on SATURDAY NEXT, March 12th. Open at 2, commencing at 2.30. Carriages may be ordered for the Evening Performances at 10.10; Day Performance, 4.10.
The ART of RIDING TAUGHT Daily by Mr. W. POWELL, Riding Master. Cards of terms are to be procured at the Box Office.
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MISS HELEN KIRK,
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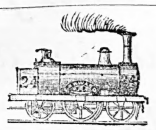

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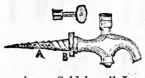

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THIS ESTABLISHMENT IS NOW OPEN.
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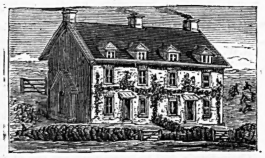

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January, 1870 [608

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AGES AGO.

A very sprightly musical comedietta under this title has been played at the Gallery of Illustration in London nighly for the last few months. It has achieved a popularity equal to any other entertainment hitherto produced by Mr. German Reed, the well-known lessee of the Gallery, a popularity as much attributable to the intrinsic merits of the piece itself as to the capital way it is performed and put upon the stage.

The music is melodious and well constructed, the dialogue smart and effective, and the plot original as far as its ingenious development is concerned. But five performers are concerned; they represent two characters each, and do so without any desire being evinced on the part of the author to puzzle the audience as to their identity by sudden change of costume. No trick is intended, although the changes are rapid enough to excite surprise, and the result attained, by far more legitimate means than entertainment writers usually employ, is in every respect satisfactory. The plot, in a few words, is as follows: Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, Miss Fanny Holland (a fascinating soprano), Mr. Connell, and Mr. Cecil appear at first as the modern inhabitants of an ancient castle, the legal possession of which is in dispute. According to tradition, the right in question is settled every hundred years in a mysterious manner by spiritual agency. The moderns retire, and during the succeeding night certain ancestral portraits on the Castle walls step forth from their frames. Here the interest of the piece is sustained by sparkling dialogue and amusing love passages between the creations of Leonardo da Vinci, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and other old masters. Ludicrous situations occur, apparently naturally enough, the extravagance of stage effect never being so much exaggerated as to offend the common-sense of the spectator. The animated portraits decide the question of possession by leaving the will of the last proprietor behind them to be discovered by the modern inhabitants of the Castle, who reappear upon the scene at the break of day. According to the directions of the will, a young couple, impersonated by Miss Fanny Holland and Mr. Cecil, are enriched, their betrothal, clandestinely made in the first scene, is openly declared, and the lively comedietta comes to the conventional happy termination. With "Cox and Box" as an afterpiece, it constitutes an entertainment which should be seen and heard by every lover of a good dramatic *ensemble* and pretty music.

It is no unimportant fact that the performances now being given at the Gallery of Illustration are exclusively English in their origin and completeness. "Ages Ago" is written by Mr. Gilbert, the music being composed by Mr. Clay, a young composer of much promise. "Cox and Box" is the joint production of F. C. Burnand, the popular author of "Happy Thoughts," and Arthur Sullivan. Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. Connell, and Mr. Cecil are artistes who do not attempt to disguise their nationality by the assumption of foreign titles. The Gallery has long been a very home of English art. It was here that Grieve and Telbin exhibited their marvellous pictures of the Overland Route—that Charles Dickens and all the most eminent literary men of the day played before her Majesty—indeed, no locality in the metropolis is more completely identified with native talent than is the compact little *salle de theatre* in Waterloo Place, of which Mr. German Reed has been the successful manager for so many years. An ominous line in the advertisements and bills announces this as his last season. Such a statement causes a pang of regret, presaging as it probably does the early retirement of Mrs. German Reed, one of the most versatile and gifted vocalists that ever appeared before the public. Not that her retirement would be justified by "the cruel ravages of time." Miss P. Horton came before the foot-lights at such an early age, and has been so constantly upon the London stage, that she may easily be supposed older than she really is. A story is related of an elderly gentleman sending her a prescription accompanied by a polite note in which he expressed his delight at her impersonation of an old lady and hoped she would derive as much benefit as he had experienced from remedies intended to relieve the sufferings of those advanced in life. The very ungallant attention conveyed a compliment never contemplated, probably, by the elderly and imbecile individual.

It was in 1828 that Priscilla Horton, then a child of five years of age, made her debut at the Surrey theatre during the last season of Elliston's management, in a piece called "John Overy," by Douglas Jerrold. In 1829, with Miss Poole, another infant prodigy, who has since become a celebrated vocalist, she was engaged by Mr. Lucombe, Mrs. Sims Reeves' father, to sing songs and duets in character, at the Old Steine Library, Brighton. The two children created a sensation in what may be looked upon as the commencement of the Concert Room Entertainments of the present day. From Brighton, Miss P. Horton went to Covent Garden theatre, to play fairies in the Pantomimes and Prince Arthur to Fanny Kemble's Lady Constance. Covent Garden was under the control of Charles Kemble, a pompous actor and energetic manager. His theatrical dignity is said on one occasion to have been seriously jeopardised by an unpremeditated stage effect during a grand spectacular drama. The Covent Garden despot had to take part in a procession, riding on an elephant. Coming off the stage he exhibited signs of wrath and trepidation, which he explained by saying that the boys inside the elephant had quarrelled, and that the front legs threatened to punch the back legs' head if they did not keep better step.

At the age of twelve, Miss P. Horton was deemed competent to undertake some of the principal characters in the musical interludes and pieces that were given at the theatre; and during this early part of her career that versatility of talent, the development of which has made its happy possessor so great a reputation, was first recognised. Her powers of mimicry were remarkable, and it was by imitating the voice and style of singing of the celebrated Miss Nuverarity that Miss P. Horton first attracted the attention of Charles Kemble. The imitation was so good that the call-boy was sent to the prima donna's dressing-room, to tell her from Mr. Kemble that the audience could hear her—the reply was that she had not been singing, and the roulades were traced to their true source. Miss P. Horton was sent for and requested to repeat her imitations before the manager, who expressed surprise at her precocity.

The young lady from this time made progress, and was much encouraged by Sir George Smart musical conductor of Covent Garden, who obtained for his protegée permanent entrée to the first green-room of the theatre, a privilege only extended to the principal artists. The first green-room of by-gone days was a luxuriously-furnished apartment, kept scrupulously clean—the entrance to which was guarded by stalwart footmen in court liveries. None but those in stage costume or full evening dress were admitted to this inner Temple of Melpomene. About the year 1833, Miss P. Horton appeared at the Victoria Theatre, —then a place of fashionable resort, and especially patronised by the Princess Victoria and Duchess of Kent—as "Romeo," with immense éclat, as well as in "Midas," and other plays. Here was to have been produced Barnett's Mountain Sylph, the principal part being intended for Miss P. Horton, but some disagreement as to terms prevented the arrangement being carried out. From the Victoria she went to the little Strand Theatre, where the burlettas of G. A. A'Beckett again brought her into notice. In one, "Manfred," which was played a hundred nights, she appeared as the spirit of Grisi, and excited the wonder of the lamented "Diva" herself by the remarkable imitation of her singing.

Madame Vestris next secured the co-operation of the popular artiste at the Olympic; and in 1837 she was engaged by the tenor, Braham, at the St. James's, and according to the terms of her contract was to play in opera, tragedy, comedy, interlude, and farce. This comprehensive range of characters was even exceeded by Miss P. Horton singing one evening "Zerlina," in Fra Diavolo, and the tenor rôle in the same opera the next night. The most important event in the gifted lady's career was her engagement by Macready. In "King Lear" she appeared as the Fool, a part hitherto omitted, as it belonged to the characters generally given to the low comedians, and was thought to interfere with the most important scenes in the play. At Macready's suggestion, Miss P. Horton took the part and gave it a reading, as poetical as it was impressive: so touching were the snatches of song and the pattering of the weary feet of the poor boy in the storm scene—like a faithful hound never quitting his loved master's side—that old playgoers still talk in raptures of the impression made by the representation. As Ariel, the fortunate combination of sympathetic voice and feature she possesses enabled Miss P. Horton to produce an effect which inseparably identifies her name with this Shakesperian character. It is said that one long note she sang at the close of "Where the bee sucks" could be distinctly heard by the passers-by in Covent-garden Market.

Ophelia in "Hamlet," the singing Witch in "Macbeth," Hecate, and many other important rôles—among others, Acis, in Handel's "Acis and Galetea,"—were successively performed by Miss P. Horton during Macready's management of Covent-garden and Drury-lane Theatres, in the years 1842 and '43. Afterwards, at the Haymarket, success attended almost every part in which she appeared. Planché's "Fair one with the Golden Locks," "Fortunio," and other burlesques, achieved a popularity that is still fresh in the memory of all who take interest in theatrical matters.

At the Haymarket, Miss P. Horton entered into a permanent engagement, one more interesting than any she had yet been offered, and became Mrs. German Reed. This was in 1844, since which time she has quitted the stage and devoted her remarkable talents to the development of that class of amusement known as Entertainments, in which, aided by Mr. German Reed, she has made as great a name as by any of her former efforts. Still in the prime of life, a hale and handsome woman, although, perhaps, not quite Ariel in form, there are many more recent creations of the celebrated artiste which will always be as inseparably associated with her name as is that of Prospero's servant who did her spiriting so gently.

This short allusion to Miss P. Horton's (Mrs. German Reed) exceptionally brilliant career will not be thought inconsistent with her appearance in a piece bearing the suggestive title of "Ages Ago."

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

[WEATHER PERMITTING.]

THE QUORN HOUNDS (Mr. Chaworth Musters's) *at Twelve.*—Saturday (this day), Coleorton Hall; Monday, March 21, Beeby; Tuesday, March 22, Roecliff; Friday, March 25, Six Hills; Saturday, March 26, Staunton Harold.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND'S HOUNDS, *at half-past Eleven.*—Tuesday, March 22, Kirkby Logthorpe; Wednesday, March 23, Hose Grange; Friday, March 25, Newton Tollbar.

THE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE HOUNDS, *at Eleven.*—Monday, March 21, Stone Bridge; Tuesday, March 22, Bull and Butcher, Ryton; Thursday, March 24, Dunchurch; Friday, March 25, Boat Inn, Honiley.

THE WARWICKSHIRE HOUNDS, *at a quarter to Eleven.*—Monday, March 21, Pebworth Village; Tuesday, March 22, Mitford Bridge; Friday, March 25, Wroxton New Inn; Saturday, March 26, Upton Wood.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE HOUNDS, *at a quarter to Eleven.*—Monday, March 21, Gallow Green; Tuesday, March 22, Inkberrow; Thursday, March 24, Red Lion, Holt; Friday, March 25, Radford Gate.

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUNDS (Lord Henry Paget's), *at Eleven.*—Monday, March 21, Moore Hall (to breakfast at *half-past Ten*); Thursday, March 24, Lichfield Racecourse.

THE ALBRIGHTON HOUNDS, *at a quarter past Eleven.*—Saturday (this day), Chaddesley Wood; Tuesday, March 22, Pendeford; Thursday, March 24, Penkridge; Saturday, March 26, Hagley.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUNDS, *at Twelve.*—Saturday (this day), Loggerheads; Monday, March 21, Swynnerton Old Park; Wednesday, March 23, Seighford; Friday, March 25, Stallington.

MR. MEYNELL INGRAM'S HOUNDS, *at a quarter to Eleven.*—Saturday (this day), Rangemoor; Monday, March 21, Walton Village; Thursday, March 24, Egginton; Saturday, March 26, Cross Hayes.

THE ATHERSTONE HOUNDS, *at Eleven.*—Saturday (this day), Newbold Revel.

THE NORTH SHROPSHIRE HOUNDS (the Hon. R. C. Hill's), *at a quarter to Eleven.*—Monday, March 21, Prees; Friday, March 25, The Kennels.

THE PYTCHLEY HOUNDS, *at a quarter to Eleven.*—Saturday (this day), Clipstone Windmill.

BIRTHS.

ABBEY.—On the 5th inst., at Checkendon Rectory, Oxon., the wife of the Rev. C. J. Abbey, of a son.

CHAPMAN.—On the 12th inst., at Oaklands, near Cheltenham, the wife of Mr. Robert Chapman, of a daughter.

CLARKE.—On the 12th inst., at Sambrook Vicarage, Newport, Salop, the wife of the Rev. Samuel Clarke, M.A., of a son.

GERTY.—On the 11th inst., at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, the wife of the Rev. Hamilton Llewellyn Gerty, of a daughter.

MARRIAN.—Recently, at Baltimore, Md., U.S., the wife of James A. Marrian, Esq., late of Birmingham, of a daughter.

PEEL.—On the 9th inst., at Whitehall Gardens, the Lady Emily Peel, of a daughter.

PEPYS.—On the 13th inst., at Hallow Vicarage, Worcestershire, the wife of the Rev. Herbert G. Pepys, of a daughter.

REYNOLDS.—On the 13th inst., at Otho Villa, Scarborough, the wife of Edward Reynolds, Esq., of Paxton Hall, Huntingdonshire, of a daughter.

STOPFORD.—On the 13th inst., at Cotham Vale End, Hampton-road, Bristol, the wife of Mr. Edwin C. Stopford, of a son.

SUTTON.—On the 13th inst., at Belle Bank House, Holmer, Hereford, the wife of R. A. Sutton, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CLOSE—BONSER.—On the 10th inst., at the Parish Church, Swansea, after banns, by the Rev. Josiah Meigh, Islip John Close, of Hilton, Derbyshire, to Phillis, youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas Bonser, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

COLEMAN—HAWLINGS.—On the 17th ultimo, at All Saints Church, Odiham, Hants, by the Rev. T. G. Clarke, vicar, John Major Coleman, M.D., son of E. H. Coleman, Esq., of Wolverhampton, to Sarah Maria, eldest daughter of the late William Hawlings, Esq., of Old Basing, Hants.—No cards.

HOLME—JACKSON.—On the 10th inst., at St. Mary's, Stafford, by the Rev. T. R. Finch, Mr. Charles Holme, High Cliffe Farm, Derbyshire, to Harriet, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Jackson, Haughton Villa, Stafford.

ROBINSON—COLLIS.—On the 10th inst., at the parish church, Kinver, by the Rev. J. H. Robinson, cousin of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. William Godfrey, vicar of Studley, Brooke Robinson, Esq., to Eugenia Frederica Louisa, only child of George Richmond Collis, Esq., of Stourton Castle, Worcestershire, and granddaughter of Major Sir John Whale, formerly of the 1st Life Guards.

DEATHS.

BARNES.—On New Year's Day, suddenly, the result of an accident, on his passage home from Melbourne, Philip Edward, second son of Christopher H. Barnes, Esq., M.D., of Redcliffe-gardens, West Brompton, late of Notting-hill. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

BLOOMER.—On the 15th inst., at her son-in-law's (Mr. Jones), Snow Hill, in her 87th year, Sarah Bloomer, late of Bradford-street, Birmingham.

CHAVASSE.—On the 12th inst., of consumption, aged 36, Horace Chavasse, of Dudley, late of Moxley.

EDE.—On the 13th inst., at Aintree, near Liverpool, George Matthew Ede, Esq., aged 36.

FIENNES.—On the 13th inst., at Torquay, Cecil Brownlow Twisleton Wakeham Fiennes, second son of Lord Saye and Sele, and rector of Ashow, Warwickshire, aged 38.

GILL.—On the 14th inst., at her sister's, Bloomsbury, aged 54, Sarah, wife of Mr. Harry Gill, and youngest daughter of Mr. Silvanus Eidgley, both of Birmingham.

LARKEN.—On the 5th ult., Thomas Lancaster Larken, of Foo-choo, China, son of the Rev. Edmund R. Larken, rector of Burton-by-Lincoln.

PAY.—On the 9th inst., at the residence of Mr. Thompson, of St. John's Hill, Ellesmere, aged 88, Miss Lydia Pay, for many years housekeeper to Wilbraham Egerton, Esq., of Tatton Park, Cheshire.

PARSONS.—On the 11th inst., John Parsons, of Wednesfield.

RANN.—On Jan. 28, at his residence, Arno Villa, Leamington, Richard William Rann, Esq., aged 70, deeply regretted.

THRUSTANS.—On the 11th inst., at Clarendon Villa, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, Jenny Hilda, daughter of Alfred Kendrick Thrustans, aged 4 months.

WILKINSON.—On the 10th inst., at Leamington, aged 37, Bessie, wife of Henry Wilkinson.

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And should in all cases be plainly directed
Per "*MIDLAD RAILWAY.*"
JAMES ALLPORT, General Manager.
Derby, Feb., 1870. [689

We announce with regret the death of Mr. William Brough, journalist, essayist, and dramatist. He was a prolific writer for the stage. The *Echo* says there is scarcely a theatre in the United Kingdom which has not produced his pieces upon its boards. Mr. Brough, who died on the 13th instant, at the age of 44, after a lingering illness of some months, was a brother of the late Robert B. Brough, one of the most graceful of modern poets, and the clever editor of the long-defunct *Welcome Guest*, on which Sala, the Brothers Greenwood, and other writers who have now achieved popularity were engaged.

RUSSIAN ORDERS FOR ENGLISH WORKS.—Among the orders given out in England for locomotives for Russian railways, the following may be mentioned: Messrs. Sharp, Stewart, and Co., Manchester; Orel and Vitebsk, 67; Rybinsk and Bologoi, 19; Great Russian, 10; Dunaburg and Vitebsk, 15; total, 111. Worcester Engine Company: Great Russian, 15. Messrs. Neilson, Glasgow: Finland line, 10; Griessi and Jeletz, 10; total 20. Messrs. Beyer, and Co., Manchester: Finland line, 10; Great Russian, 20; Moscow and Koursk, 20; Saratoff and Tamboff 28; total 78. Messrs. Kitson, Leeds: Novio and Tarjok, 5; Great Russian, 15; Moscow and Rjaeson, 16: Saratoff and Tamboff, 20; total 56. Yorkshire Engine Company—Kozloff and Tamboff, 12; Poti and Tiflis, 35; Moscow and Rjaeson, 12; Great Russian, 10; total, 69. Trucks are also being made on Russian account, as follows, in England—Gloucester Wagon Company, 5,950; Lancaster Wagon Company, 650; Bristol Wagon, 200; and Oldbury Wagon Company, 350. The value of the Russian locomotive orders received in England may be estimated at least £7,000,000.